Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Police officers to direct traffic during power outages. PAGE 2
9th Circuit rejects challenge to jurisdiction over Saipan. PAGE 5

ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

# CUC down to two engines

*Muña said there would be no relief until Sept. 16, when the Aggreko generators are expected to start working.*

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Muña

The same day the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. set a timetable with Aggreko International for new generators to arrive on island, the CUC power plant was down to two of four engines.

See CUC on Page 4

## Yana, Atalig get temporary reprieve

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

In a ruling yesterday, Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo said lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig can leave the Department of Corrections for a few days each week to prepare a detailed account of their work with the Angel Malite estate probate.

Govendo said Yana and Atalig can leave the prison every Monday at 8am, but must return by 8am Wednesday.

See YANA on Page 4

Lawyer Reynaldo O. Yana is led out of the Superior Court after yesterday's hearing.
KRISTI EATON

## World-renowned architect designs new Tinian resort

An artist's perspective of the proposed Matua Bay Resort on Tinian, as designed by world-renowned Japanese architect Shin Takamatsu.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

World-renowned architect Shin Takamatsu took his inspiration for the design of the proposed Matua Bay Resort on Tinian from the moon and the stars yet the plans for the project, unveiled in a Friday press conference, also come with some very earthly features intended to safeguard the environment and local history.

See RENOWNED on Page 4

## Shell prices drop as oil plummets

**SHELL PRICES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **REGULAR** | |
| Self Service | $4.57 |
| Full Service | $4.71 |
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| Full Service | $4.87 |
| Diesel | $5.50 |

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Shell gas stations in the CNMI lowered prices for the third time in nearly one month Friday as the price of oil continued to fall after reaching record highs earlier this summer.

In a statement, Eloy Lizama, president of Shell Guam, said the price of all Shell gasoline would drop by 10 cents

"Shell will lower the price of Shell premium and Shell unlead-

See SHELL on Page 4

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

**Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?**

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INSIDE

**Obama Retort**
Sen. Barack Obama hits back with a 40-page rebuttal to the best-selling book "The Obama Nation."

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**Ancient Grave**
A woman and two children laid to rest on a bed of flowers 5,000 years ago are found in the barren Sahara Desert.

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**Potter Postponed**
"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" is moving from its planned Nov. 21 release to July 17, 2009.

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# Local

## Police officers to direct traffic at intersections

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

In response to growing concerns from the public, police officers will be stationed at four traffic lights around the island when power outages occur, acting DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela announced Friday.

Beginning Sunday, officers will report to the following locations to direct traffic when there is a power outage: the intersection at Garapan and Middle Road near the Happy Market; the intersection on Middle Road near the Commonwealth Hospital Center; the intersection near the Microl Corp. in San Jose; and the intersection near Chalan Kiya Village and the Mobil Station.

"We will be contacting [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] for cooperation from them regarding plans on how to get a 5 to10 minute heads-up before they shut it [power] off, so we can have officers designated for load changes, so we can protect the citizens from running into each other," said Police Division chief Lawrence Camacho.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said he would work with DPS to provide a schedule, but with the current state of the engines, unexpected outages often occur.

Muna said he would inform DPS when CUC was switching down from three to one or two engines.

Tudela said officers would not be sent out at night or when it is raining.

"We value the officer's life first and foremost," he said.

Motorists often aren't cognizant to the officers outside, Camacho said.

"We value the person's life, we just can't sacrifice anyone getting injured," he said.

When no officer is present, motorists need to follow basic laws and extend courtesy to other drivers, Tudela said.

The first vehicle to stop at the intersection has the right of way, Tudela said, and when two cars arrive at the same time, the car on the right goes first.

DPS will soon be publishing information on the four-way stop rule, Tudela said.

"We're going to have that out as soon as possible, to educate the public on the rule of the four-way stop," he said.

Camacho said officers would still be performing their regular duties on top of directing traffic.

## DPW to start repainting road surface markings next month

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works will start repainting road surface markings along main thoroughfares of Saipan by next month.

DPW Secretary Diego B. Songsong said they are currently preparing the funds for the project and within a month they would have procured all the necessary materials.

Songsong said it has been a long time since such repainting work has been done because there is limited budget for it or it is not part of the legislated funding for the department.

Also because of this problem, DPW cannot estimate yet the cost for this project.

He said there are other major and important projects that DPW is currently preparing to implement.

"We don't have enough resources so we have to look into other sources of funding," he said regarding the repainting works for the road surface markings.

Songsong conceded, though, that such repainting work is extremely important to the public because they are concerned about the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike.

He also explained that this kind of project is the sole responsibility of a state so they could not request for federal funding.

Songsong said they might need contractors to do the works but they still have to determine if they only need DPW crew to do it.

Road surface markings are used on paved roadways to provide guidance and information to drivers and pedestrians.

Songsong explained that there are two colors for the road markings—the yellow and white line markings.

In standard practice, white lines are usually on the road surface and tell something about the road that you are traveling on. Lines that travel along the road (longitudinal) inform and warn drivers of approaching situations that will need them to do something—like turn right, or do not cross. Lines that cross the road (transverse) give instructions to road users like "give way" or "stop."

There are various types of yellow lines marked on the road or on the edge of the pavement or kerb that indicate waiting restrictions. They are usually used when there is a need to restrict parking to help keep traffic flowing and consistent, and to prevent people from being obstructed by other vehicles on

See DPW on Page 4

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## Fitial going on YouTube!

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is going on YouTube!

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they have already recorded the 10-minute video, which would be uploaded to YouTube anytime.

Fitial

YouTube (www.youtube.com) is a video sharing website where users can upload, view and share video clips for free.

In the video the governor will be discussing recent events such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s crisis and the federalization issue, Reyes said.

"The governor is very busy but he feels that it is necessary to address some of these issues. So what we've done is we recorded a message—a direct address for the people of the Commonwealth," the press secretary said.

He said they videotaped Fitial delivering his message which would also be released to the media.

Reyes said if they manage to complete all the works, the video would be uploaded possibly either this weekend or Monday.

Since they will be using government tools, the YouTube project would incur no cost to the administration, Reyes added.

## Two deported over illegal hiring

A man and a woman pleaded guilty Thursday in the Commonwealth Superior Court to knowingly and unlawfully hiring and employing an illegal alien.

Under the plea agreement, Arnel and Emilia Panieza each agreed to pay $250; pay all court costs; voluntarily leave the Commonwealth within 21 days of the plea; and follow all CNMI laws until deportation.

If the conditions are not met, the defendants will face two years of imprisonment.

According to the agreement, Arnel and Emilia knowingly and unlawfully hired Dolores Agana, an illegal alien, in an effort to extend Agana's stay in CNMI and circumvent labor and immigration laws. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

# Congressional delegation meets with NMC execs

Congressional staff members recently met with officials of the Northern Marianas College to discuss the college's key role as the federal government assumes control of the CNMI's labor and immigration function. Central to their discussion was the CNMI's workforce development needs and the implementation of rules and regulations that guide the U.S. student visa program.

In the meeting with the nine-member congressional staff delegation and Tee Abraham, NMC Dean of Community Programs and Services, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez stressed that the college is gearing to provide the necessary training to fill any gaps that would result from the anticipated departure of many foreign laborers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After meeting to discuss several issues, federal congressional staff members pose for a photo with NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, front row third from left, and NMC Dean of Community Programs and Services Felicitas "Tee" Abraham, far left.

At the same time, Fernandez also sought the staffers' support for financial assistance to fund the implementation of the U.S. Apprenticeship Training Program, which would enable NMC to offer technical trades courses.

"We have always worked aggressively to expand current programs and to implement new ones that ensure the CNMI's workforce is the most highly skilled and educated in the region," said Fernandez. "The staffers' visit to NMC underscores the federal government's strong support of these efforts."

Another key concern highlighted at the meeting was the implementation of the federal student visa program. Fernandez indicated that the college is currently assessing the impact of the visa program, particularly its impact on NMC's ability to recruit foreign students.

The congressional delegation consisted of Anthony Babauta, Brian Modeste, and Richard Stanton of the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; Blake Chisam and David Shahoulian of the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law; Larry Lavender and Daniel McGlinchey of the Committee on Financial Services; and CDR Jerry Miranda and LCDR Ron Valencia of the Navy House Liaison Office. ***(NMC)***

## NMI shines at Beijing Int'l Tourism Expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority attended the Beijing International Tourism Expo 2008, an event that was hailed as a "big success" by both the organizers and the exhibitors.

According to the main organizer, the Beijing Tourism Administration, BITE 2008's critical success factors were attributed to distinct themes, strong support from both the domestic and international exhibitors and highlighting the 29th Olympics. The event gained international attention and recognition, attracting interest from many participating countries. In all, ambassadors and tourism officials from 50 embassies in China graced the opening of BITE 2008.

Following its successful participation in last year's BITE, this year the Marianas Visitors Authority, Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday jointly participated in BITE 2008 and achieved great results, despite the Beijing flights' suspension. Leng Bai, marketing specialist of MVA China, headed the delegation and was joined by Ronald Chan, general manager of Century Tours; Want Lei, general manager of Tinian Dynasty Holiday's Beijing office; and Cissy Chang, general manager of Century Tours Beijing , along with the marketing and sales staff of Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday.

MVA had a 27-square meter booth, which was decorated in CNMI island-style using images of Managaha Island, Blue Grotto, Blow Hole and Latte Stones, which are the key attractions of the CNMI. During the three-day show in Beijing, Leng Bai handled the trade and public inquiries, accepted media interviews, distributed the promotional materials and conducted the sales calls with those key travel agents in Beijing who were present at BITE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kevin Xu, Century Tours marketing manager; Ronald Chan, Century Tours general manager; Leng Bai, MVA marketing specialist; Donal Keung, TDH marketing director; Wang Lei, TDH Beijing general manager; Peter Pan, TDH marketing manager and Shanghai assistant general manager.

On June 18, 2008, Leng Bai, Ronald Chan, Wang Lei, Cissy Cheung, and Donal Keung were invited to attend the VIP dinner and opening ceremony of BITE by the organizer, Beijing Tourism Administration. At the dinner, the CNMI delegation talked with industry people and exchanged ideas on the development of China's outbound travel market with exhibitors from other overseas destinations.

During the three-day exhibition itself, visitors were treated to fascinating and entertaining cultural performances from nine countries and regions, including Egypt, Korea, Northern Marianas, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tunisia and Turkey. Domestic exhibitors from 10 provinces and cities like Beijing, Heibei, Shanxi, Tibet, Xinjiang and Zhangjiajie also put on dazzling performances.

"MVA was pleased to participate in this very worthwhile show in Beijing," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the world's attention on Beijing with the Olympics, it was great to showcase our islands in the China market." ***(MVA)***

# Muna: CUC to use Rydlyme stockpile

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will soon use some of its vast Rydlyme stockpile, according to CUC executive director Anthony Muna.

The stockpile of Rydlyme, a descaling agent, is a key item in the federal indictment unsealed this week against Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Commerce Secretary James Santos, his wife Joaquina Santos—Villagomez's sister—and former CUC director Anthony Guerrero.

Most of the more than 8,000 gallons of the chemical CUC purchased through two companies the Santos' controlled was never used and remains in a warehouse on Rota.

Villagomez and the Santos' pleaded not guilty Monday to three felony counts of fraud, conspiracy and theft involving federal funds.

In an interview Thursday, Muna said a dose of Rydlyme could soon resolve overheating problems seen in a generator at Power Plant I, which has developed scale deposits.

"We're going to use the chemical to flush the system out," Muna said. "If it eliminates the overheating issue, that will confirm the value of the product."

CUC could use the rest of the stockpile for similar needs over time, Muna added, saying that the product has value.

"We are using the chemical," he said. "In terms of its use, it has some value to it. Over the years of CUC purchasing this chemical, it never moved towards implementing it but there is some value to the use of the chemical."

For example, he said, the stockpile on Rota was put there to address problems with the power engines there.

"In that regard, CUC did not purchase something that at the end of the day was not going to be utilized at some point in time."

CUC's stockpile is less of a concern than the sole-source nature of the contract, Muna added.

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## ON EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR NMI

# Speaker raises concerns, admin assures no improper contracts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold Palacios yesterday expressed concern with the legal implications of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's recent declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI.

Palacios instructed the House legal counsel to review Fitial's Executive Order 2008-10 and provide a legal analysis by yesterday, Friday, or this Monday.

He said he wants their legal counsel to give the House a clear briefing on what would be the legal implication of this executive order.

"There are some concerns that need to be clarified, not just from me personally as a Speaker, but also from other members who expressed the same concerns," Palacios said.

On Aug. 1, Fitial issued the executive order that declared a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI, citing that one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could explode at any time, maiming or killing power plant workers.

The declaration caught some lawmakers by surprise, including Sen. Paul Manglona, who chairs the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Commission. Manglona said the executive order was signed on Aug. 1, but he became aware of it only on Thursday, Aug. 14.

Palacios said there are certain things that need to be clarified because the declaration suspends existing statutes that are meant to be guidelines and safeguards in terms of procurement, particularly with the Commonwealth Public Utility Commission Act of 2006.

"So we're having our legal counsel look into all these so we can get a clear bearing," the Speaker pointed out.

He said he is sure that the Senate legal counsel is doing the same review to provide advice and clarity to the senators.

Manglona on Thursday questioned whether there are other contracts being signed using this emergency declaration.

The Rota senator pointed out that the declaration was issued shortly after the bill he and Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan introduced was passed and subsequently became Public Law 16-9.

The legislation accommodated the emergency power generation contract that CUC was trying to initiate with independent power producer Aggreko International.

The Fitial administration assured yesterday that the utility agency, under the new leadership of executive director Tony Muna, is not going to allow improper contracts to be executed.

"We would like to assure the public and the people of the Legislature that this is a different situation now," Reyes said.

With respect to the declaration, the press secretary said the document allows the administration to make sure they are able to resolve the problem, to do everything lawfully within their power to address the crisis at CUC.

"As far as we are concerned, we want all the legal tools at our disposal to remedy the problem. There is a very serious problem. Everybody knows that.And we are in great danger of having a complete islandwide blackouts.

"We don't know if that's going to happen, when that might happen. But if it continues the way it is now, it's going to happen eventually," Reyes said. "So that's why we are so looking forward to getting the Aggrekko generators."

As to why some lawmakers only learned about the declaration on Thursday, Reyes said the document was stamped Aug. 1 and received by the Senate president and the House Speaker.

"We are in communication with the Senate president and Speaker. They are aware. I think what might have happened is maybe they didn't get this information from their leadership. We apologize if they didn't get this right away," Reyes added.

# Solomons upgrades maritime surveillance

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands**—The Maritime Unit of the Solomon Islands Police Force has new facilities to improve maritime surveillance targeting illegal fishing, transnational crime and search and rescue at sea, thanks to a new Operations Room was officially opened yesterday at SIPF's portside office.

When opening the facility, Eddie Tokuru, director of the Maritime Unit of SIPF, said: "We are pleased to celebrate the launch of the Operations Room with people who have assisted us in this important step in improving our maritime surveillance facilities. With these new computer facilities, our officers at sea can send emails and data into the Operations Room for the SIPF to respond to straight away. This will improve Solomon Islands' capacity to monitor what is happening at sea and to contribute to regional surveillance operations."

## DPW

*From Page 2*

public highways.

Double yellow lines tell us that there is no waiting at any time. However, there are usually exceptions and if there are, they will be indicated by plates attached to lamp posts nearby to tell motorists what the actual restrictions are. They can vary from council to council.

Single yellow lines tend to be less restrictive. Plates attached to lamp posts will tell you the exact restrictions and you may find that you are able to park there as long as you are not doing so at a restricted time.

## SHELL

*From Page 1*

ed gasoline and Shell diesel," Lizama said. "Since our last price reduction on August 7th, the market costs of Shell's fuel products have continued to reduce. Shell wishes to immediately pass these savings onto our customers."

Shell's announcement comes as the price of oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell Friday to $112.31 a barrel, the lowest in more than three months, before settling at $113.01 per barrel by the close of the day. The closing price represents a drop of just over 23 per cent from July's high of $147 per barrel.

Prices at Shell stations will stand at $4.57 cents per gallon for self-served regular gas, $4.71 per gallon for full service. Premium gas prices fell to $4.75 per gallon self-served and $4.87 per gallon for full service. Diesel prices dropped to $5.50 per gallon.

Meanwhile, the CNMI's gas prices are still far higher than those seen in the continental United States, where the national average price of unleaded gasoline now stands at $3.77 per gallon, according to AAA. The national average price for unleaded gasoline on the same day one year ago, AAA notes, was $2.76.

## RENOWNED

*From Page 1*

Best known for futuristic structures in Japan's bustling urban centers reminiscent of the film *Blade Runner,* Takamatsu is widely acclaimed as the high-tech master of modern architecture responsible for the design of projects like Kirin Plaza in Osaka, Japan and the National Theatre of Japan on Okinawa.

Takamatsu's new design for the resort is a collage of crescent shapes, eliptical lines, cascading water features and shimmering glass.

"The whole concept is centered on circles and the moon," said William Hofschneider, a consulting engineer with project. "You can see how that is in the elements of the design."

Transforming a site that locals currently use as a dumping ground, the multi-million dollar resort project will include a 405-room hotel, a casino and an 18-hole golf course. On Friday, the developers behind the plan, the Marianas Resort Development Co., announced the submission of the environmental impact assessment for it.

"The company is excited about this," said attorney and former judge Edward Manibusan, an MRDC representative. "In this part of the world, there is a real opportunity to develop a resort and casino."

Key among the issues addressed in the newly released assessment are the presence of the Tinian Monarch—a bird species threatened by loss of habitat—on the site and several archeological finds there. Consultant Timothy Lang said the project will maintain pockets of habitat for the birds on the resort's grounds, in addition to leaving several major portions of the property undeveloped.

Most of the historical sites near the resort—such as a newly uncovered cave where archaeologists found a World War II-era Japanese corpse or another site with the remains of ancient latte stones—are slated to see a closer examination as the project moves forward and will either be preserved or left undisturbed, he added. Some of these finds border the planned golf course.

"It'll be an interesting feature to have for people on the golf course, to be golfing around these historical sites," he said, noting that after a study of wartime photographs, it appears the area around the resort saw significant development in the past.

Yet a major obstacle to the project is that the dumpsite where the company plans to build the hotel is the only depository of solid waste on the island. Plans to build a new one are now under way, yet Hofschneider said the pending military buildup in the region could complicate the effort. Without a new dump, he added, the hotel cannot be built.

"In our opinion, it needs to be done today," he said.

The project will have two phases, he added. First will come the development of the golf course and later, after the dump is removed, construction will begin on the hotel. Exact figures on the price tag for the plan are unavailable.

The environmental assessment and a permit application for the plan is now in the hands of the CNMI's Coastal Resources Management Office.

## YANA

*From Page 1*

The two are allowed to continue with this schedule through Oct. 13, when their next hearing will take place.

Atalig and Yana, who chose not to address the court Friday, were placed in civil contempt after the lawyers failed to return or do something for the return of the $1.3 million in attorneys' fee they received in the Malite probate. The two have been incarcerated since March.

In Friday's hearing, Atalig argued he was not able to earn the money or discuss how to get the money while in prison.

"We're not trying to seek in anyway to avoid the court's order…but it's impossible for a bank to issue a loan on a piece of property if someone is unemployed," Atalig told Govendo, referring to Govendo's earlier suggestion that Atalig mortgage his property.

Atalig said he has also not been able to work on providing a more detailed billing statement of the work done for the Malite estate as Govendo had asked for. Instead of "review docs," as Atalig had listed on previous billing statements, Govendo said he wants details, such as the name of the document and the time spent reviewing it

"My experience at DOC is that it's very difficult to do anything," Atalig said.

"It's not a country club, I agree," Govendo responded.

Malite estate lawyer Stephen Nutting used bank records to trace where some of the $1.3 million went.

Nutting said both men would regularly take out large amounts of cash from their bank accounts, spending it on cars, trips and remittances.

These records, Govendo said, prove the two lawyers do have the capacity to pay back the money.

"There are hundreds of thousands of dollars unaccounted for, yet you are both pleading poverty," Govendo said.

Govendo said he believes the lawyers are hoping if they wait long enough the court will forget about the money.

"You just totally ignored court orders, giving the impression, 'my name is Tony Atalig and I can do what I want,'" Govendo said.

But, Govendo said, he is willing to give the lawyers one more chance.

"Mr. Atalig, don't disappoint me on this," he said.

Nutting also requested to be recouped for the $1,300 he has spent making copies of Yana's and Atalig's bank records.

## CUC

*From Page 1*

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said only two of the four engines were running Thursday night, Friday morning and Friday afternoon, causing three-hour rotating outages for the whole island.

With the current state of the engines, there is not much CUC can do to alleviate the situation, Muña said.

"We've pushed them so hard, it's really beyond our control, that's what we're observing," Muña said. "We run them to be quick to react. We hope for the best, but realistically, we realize there is only so much we can do at this point. The best we can do is that if the engines need to be repaired, we bring them back into service as fast as possible."

Muña said there would be no relief until Sept. 16, when the Aggreko generators are expected to start working.

"We should be able to limp along another 30 days, but beyond that it is not advisable," he said. "You know the engines are…from what we see…we really need to start resting the engines and not continuously run them on a regular basis."

The Aggreko generators may allow the engines to rest a bit, although they may still have to be operational, Muña said.

According to Gov. Beningo R. Fitial's state of disaster emergency for CUC, power plant 1's engines "will be unable to provide power necessary to meet basic needs of the island and that one or more of its engines is so damaged by wear and lack of adequate maintenance for many years that is may experience a catastrophic failure."

Muna said the state of emergency was necessary to expedite the arrival of the Aggreko generators. With the declaration, CUC was able to circumvent the Public Utilities Commission's requirement of obtaining a certificate of public convenience or necessity, and sign the contract with Aggreko.

Muna said he agrees that without additional resources in the next 30 days, CUC could experience a catastrophic situation.

The engines are experiencing further breakdown and wear and tear, he said. Metal fragmentations could cause potential problems, he added.

# 9th Circuit rejects challenge to jurisdiction over Saipan

By SHERRI M. OKAMOTO
Metropolitan News-Enterprise
STAFF WRITER

The federal government may enact criminal legislation applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands under the commerce and territorial clauses of the Constitution, even though they are not specified in the covenant defining the islands' legal and political relationship with the United States, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held Thursday.

Upholding the federal criminal convictions of two Saipan brothel owners for sex trafficking and prostitution, a three-judge panel rejected an argument that the covenant's failure to specifically mention the clauses deprived Congress of the ability to rely on them to enact legislation affecting the islands.

Ming Yan Zheng, who was convicted with along with Chang Da Liu, operated a Saipan brothel called the Tea House and recruited employees from Dalian, China by placing advertisements seeking hotel waitresses, nightclub performers, and service workers. Applicants were required to pay $6,000 as a "processing fee" to secure their position.

Although the written materials used to recruit the applicants stated that sexual activities were prohibited, upon arriving in Saipan, six young women who had come from China in order to work at the Tea House were required to engage in prostitution. Charges were filed against Zheng and Liu after the six women reported them to the FBI.

After a trial before U.S. District Judge Alex R. Munson of the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, a jury convicted both defendants of conspiracy, sex trafficking, foreign transportation for prostitution, and transportation of persons in execution of fraud.

On appeal, Zheng challenged the government's jurisdiction and legislative authority over the commonwealth, noting that the covenant between the Northern Mariana Islands and United States establishing the island as a commonwealth of the United States permits the federal government to enact legislation applicable to the islands so long as the legislation could also be made applicable to the states, or if it expressly identifies the commonwealth.

Relying on Fleming v. Dept. of Public Safety, (1988) 837 F.2d 401, she argued that Sec. 501 of the covenant—which lists specific provisions of the federal Constitution applicable to the commonwealth—is exhaustive, and that, insofar as it does not explicitly incorporate the commerce and territorial clauses, the two provisions are inapplicable to the commonwealth.

But Judge Procter Hug Jr. explained that Zheng's argument was "misleading" because the commerce clause and territorial clause are constitutional provisions that apply to Congress, not to the states. Thus, he reasoned, a determination of whether the clauses apply to the commonwealth or not would not affect Congress' ability to enact legislation applicable to the commonwealth.

He clarified, however, that, under Sec. 501, only legislation enacted before the covenant's 1978 effective date and applicable to the several states will be applicable to the commonwealth. Where legislation is enacted after the covenant's effective date, Hug explained, the court must balance the federal interests served by the legislation against the degree of intrusion into local affairs.

Reasoning that two of the criminal sections under which Zheng was prosecuted were therefore applicable to the commonwealth because they were applicable to the states and enacted before the covenant's effective date, and that another enacted after the effective date was applicable because the federal government's interest in combating international sex trafficking outweighs the intrusion into the commonwealth's local affairs, Hug affirmed her conviction.

Hug also rejected evidentiary arguments raised by both Zheng and Liu, concluding that the government had not engaged in any misconduct during trial, and that sufficient evidence supported the judgments of conviction and sentences imposed.

At trial, Munson had excluded video proffered by Zheng and Liu purportedly showing two former Tea House employees voluntarily engaged in prostitution after the brothel shut down after concluding that admission would cause unfair prejudice, confuse the issues, and constitute a waste of time because the former employees had admitted they had continued to engage in prostitution to support themselves.

Munson had also barred the video as extrinsic evidence offered to prove the witnesses' specific conduct, and had permitted an FBI agent to testify regarding out of court statements made by the employees which was consistent with their trial testimony, to rebut Zheng and Liu's allegations that the employees had fabricated testimony in order to receive financial assistance from the FBI.

Judges Pamela Ann Rymer and Johnnie B. Rawlinson joined Hug in his opinion.

The case is United States v. Liu, 06-10758.

# $15K Citi grant benefits 15 high school students

Thanks to a $15,000 grant provided by the Citi Foundation, 15 public high school students will enroll for courses at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College next year.

The students have received this opportunity under the UOG's TRIO Program, which was established to support the educational development of public high school seniors. Of the 15 students, two will enroll at the Guam Community College, while 13 will attend courses at UOG.

During the check presentation ceremony, UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood said: "I applaud the Citi Foundation for funding the aspirations and educational goals of our students. The partnership between the University of Guam TRIO Programs and Citi means that more students have access to an affordable college education. This investment by the Citi Foundation will continue to pay dividends far into the future as our community reaps the benefits of an educated workforce."

UOG TRIO programs director Yoichi Rengiil added: "College graduation rates for our TRIO Program participants have been traditionally low. The Citi Foundation scholarship program will assist us in improving this rate. Citi is truly a member of our community and should be commended for its outstanding contribution."

"Citi is delighted to make this contribution and help promote more learning opportunities for public school students," Madhu Seshadri, corporate country officer/country business manager, Citi Guam, said. "We extend our congratulations to the scholarship awardees and wish them success in their pursuit of higher education."

He added, "We also appreciate the UOG TRIO Program's team for their vision and passion to prepare our youth for their successful transition into college."

UOG is a United States land-grant institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior Commission. It is the only four-year, U.S. accredited postsecondary institution within the Western Pacific region.

Since 1989, UOG has hosted two TRIO Programs: Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search. The mission of UOG's TRIO Programs is to motivate and assist disadvantaged students achieve their educational goals. The UOG TRIO Program serves an average of 380 students annually. ***(Citi)***

# Defense: Miura can't be tried in US for murder

By LINDA DEUTSCH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES**—The lawyer for a Japanese businessman accused of killing his wife in 1981 filed legal papers Thursday insisting that his client was acquitted in Japan of murder and conspiracy and can't be tried in the United States without being placed in double jeopardy.

Attorney Mark Geragos filed the papers answering a lengthy prosecution motion on the eve of a major hearing set for Friday afternoon for Kazuyoshi Miura. A judge is expected to decide whether Miura will be extradited from Saipan to Los Angeles for a murder trial or will be set free to return to his home in Japan.

The 60-year-old Miura, who has been held since he was arrested in the U.S. territory of Saipan last February, is expected to be seen on a closed-circuit TV hookup from the jail during the hearing.

In his 16-page brief, Geragos contradicted prosecution claims that the crime of conspiracy to murder did not exist in Japan at the time that Miura was tried.

"Not only does the crime of conspiracy exist in Japanese law, the elements required to prove a conspiracy under Japanese law and California law are practically if not virtually identical." Geragos said.

Prosecutor Alan Jackson had argued in his papers that Miura was never tried for conspiracy to murder and thus could be returned to the United States for trial on that charge.

Geragos reiterated the complicated path that the case took after Miura's wife was killed in Los Angeles and he returned to Japan claiming that both of them had been attacked by an unknown assailant. He collected $700,000 on insurance policies he had taken out on his wife.

But Japanese authorities took another look at the case, charged Miura and he subsequently was convicted of conspiracy, attempted murder and murder in the death of his wife. The Tokyo High Court overturned his conviction because it had been

Miura

alleged that he hired an accomplice to carry out the crime.

Geragos said the ruling, which specifically considered the role of a conspirator, proves that Miura was tried for conspiracy and bars a new trial in the United States.

He further argued that the change in a California law barring trial of defendants already tried in a foreign jurisdiction did not come until 2005 and cannot be applied retroactively to crimes alleged before then.

The case has been a cause celebre in Japan where it was dubbed "the Japanese O.J. case," and in the United States it has been subject of thinly disguised fictional TV dramas.

Geragos asked the California court to quash Miura's arrest warrant and dismiss the felony complaint seeking his extradition.

**BIRTHDAY GIRL** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to the fabulous Cherlyn Cabrera! With love from all your family, friends, and your MHS Dolphin family.

MUSIC EQUIPMENT SALE
SATURDAY ALL DAY
FRIDAY NOON TO 7PM
Turn in beside I-Mart in Tanapag—Follow Signs
322-3900 • 287-0687
Good Prices!
Peavy Bandit Amp • Sunn Studio PA • Fender Passport Amp Set • Fender Bass Amp • Pioneer 2 Mixing Amp • JBL Speakers • JBL Sound Tech Mixer • Roland Synthesizer / Guitar Set • QSC 860 watt Power Amp • Zoom Digital Recording Studio • Ibañez "Musician" Electric Guitar... more cool stuff.

## Notice of Public Hearing
## Aggrecko Auxiliary CUC Power Station

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-1360, by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The application is for installation of auxiliary electrical generators on Lot 205 E 02, 15-2, Lower Base, Saipan.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | August 28, 2008 |
| **Time:** | 6:00 pm |
| **Place:** | Multipurpose Building, Susupe |

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, August 29, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 229

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EDITORIAL

## Watching the Games

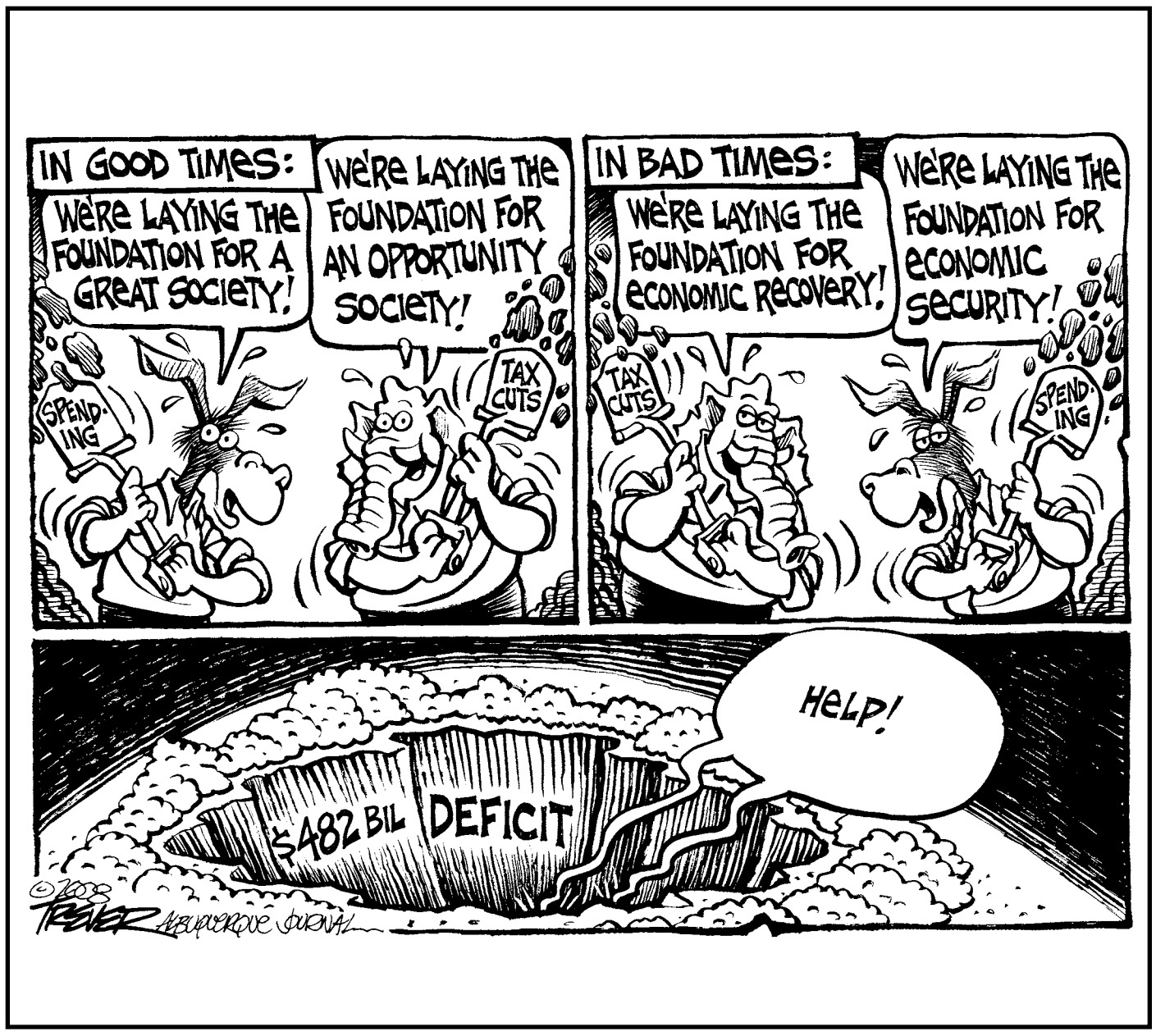
The International Olympic Committee distinguished this year's Games not just by awarding them to China but by allowing them to be shown live on the Internet. That's because it was finally satisfied that webcasters could use technology to stop their video streams from crossing national borders. This technology enabled the committee to sell online rights separately in each country and, more important, helped protect its main source of revenue: the exorbitant sums that broadcasters paid for the privilege of televising the Olympics. After all, if NBC had to compete for viewers with online feeds from around the globe, would it have been willing to pay $894 million?

And so it is that we have this nice parallel: The year the Games are held in a country whose government aggressively censors the Net, the IOC begins allowing live coverage online—if it's electronically restricted. Evidently, the committee doesn't have a sense of irony. NBC has added some limits of its own, by delaying or omitting online feeds for some of the most popular events. But here's another parallel: Just as the Great Firewall of China hasn't stopped determined Chinese residents from accessing banned Web sites, neither have the broadcasters' restrictions stopped avid sports fans from finding ways to watch and share Olympic videos. The wide availability of unauthorized feeds is a reminder of a 21st century reality: Once content is made available somewhere, it becomes available everywhere. Rights holders can make their content hard to find online, but they can't really make it scarce.

Is that a bad thing for broadcasters? NBC's boffo TV ratings suggest the opposite. The company is drawing record-setting crowds to its ample online feeds (2,200 hours of streaming video, compared with 1,400 hours on the air), with more visitors and page views each day than it attracted during the entire 2004 Olympics in Athens. Yet the enormous audience for the TV broadcasts—a total of 157 million people through Monday—dwarfs the number of Web users watching video streams, NBC executives said. By their count, 90 percent of the audience is watching the Games only on TV, compared with 0.2 percent watching only online.

Granted, NBC's numbers don't include those tuning in to bootlegged streams and downloads. The unauthorized online audience is in the millions, judging by the popularity of a pirated high-definition recording of the opening ceremony. Yet as the network's statistics show, people will watch big televised events on their TV sets, not on their PCs, if they can—even when the programming is available in advance online. The lesson here is that the Internet is the route to more viewers, online and off. And if broadcasters don't serve the online audience, someone else will.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times




## Our own worst bioenemy

By WENDY ORENT
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Whatever you can say about the Soviet bioweapons scientists," a Bush administration official once told me, "they never killed anyone."

We can't say the same about U.S. bioweapons scientists. Someone, most likely Bruce Ivins, at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., turned powdered anthrax spores into a deadly weapon. It's ironic that the Soviet scientists were making offensive weapons. Our people, since 1969, have worked strictly to defend us.

One of those defenders killed five people, sickened 17 others and plunged the nation into hysteria for weeks in the fall of 2001. After a seven-year investigation by the FBI, the source of the deadly anthrax strain has been identified—our own biodefense program at Fort Detrick. That is the real legacy of the FBI investigation.

Since the anthrax-laced letters were mailed in September and October of 2001, U.S. biodefense has blown up out of all proportion to any rational assessment of the bioweapons threat. Earlier this year, an article in the journal Biosecurity and Bioterrorism, analyzing government biodefense spending from 2001 to 2008, stated that $49.66 billion has been allocated for civilian biodefense. According to microbiologist and longtime biodefense critic Richard Ebright of Rutgers University, actual spending is even higher, amounting to $57 billion.

In 2005, he and 757 other microbiologists sent a stinging open letter to Elias Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, protesting the government's preoccupation with "priority pathogens"—germs such as anthrax that could be used in a bioweapons attack. But Zerhouni and Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, would have none of it. In a letter published in the journal Science, they disagreed: "The United States has experienced an anthrax attack, and security experts repeatedly express concern that future attacks with biological weapons are likely, if not inevitable."

But we didn't actually experience an anthrax attack. The whole incident amounted to a snake eating its own tail. No ingenious biowarrior from al-Qaida sent the lethal envelopes through the U.S. postal system. An American scientist did. The FBI and its genetic analyses leave no doubt: Though 16 laboratories had access to the "Ames strain" of anthrax used in the letters, only the samples that came from Ivins' laboratory at Fort Detrick matched the genetic fingerprint of the attack strain.

In the sorry aftermath of the anthrax investigation, it's clear that the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have to rethink the priority-pathogens list, which includes anthrax, smallpox, plague, tularemia, Ebola and other germs that rarely, if ever, threaten American lives. It's the "non-defense-related" germs that are killing us. Randall Wolcott of the Southwest Regional Wound Care Center points out that 500,000 Americans a year die of biofilm infections—such as diabetic ulcers—that are almost impossible to treat by conventional means. That's almost twice as many as die of cancer.

According to the CDC, infections caused by methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, kill 19,000 people a year. Still, staph itself isn't considered a priority pathogen, despite the emergence of highly resistant and increasingly virulent strains. Only one of 40 staph toxins is on the priority list.

There's another problem created by the priority-pathogens list. The ballooning of the biodefense program, according to Ebright, means that about 14,000 individuals are now considered qualified to work with priority pathogens.

It hasn't always been easy to find qualified people for this research. In the days when the FBI was pursuing former "person of interest"—and now exonerated—Steven J. Hatfill, one senior government scientist said of Hatfill's background, "You take what you can get—not many people with his abilities show up very often." So where do 14,000 suddenly qualified biodefense experts come from? And how can they be vetted? As biodefense expert Leonard Cole, author of "The Anthrax Letters," told me: "There are 15,000 to 16,000 people now working in labs on select agents—that's many more possibilities of another bizarre individual doing illicit work."

The lesson of the anthrax letters isn't that we're in danger of a bioweapons attack from terrorists. It's that U.S. biodefense itself has become a threat: We have met the enemy—and it is us.

The next administration should pull the plug on the biodefense excesses of the Bush administration and put most of the thousands of microbiologists to work on the germs we really need to worry about.

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*Orent is the author of* Plague: The Mysterious Past and Terrifying Future of the World's Most Dangerous Disease.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Who got Georgia into this?

**By ROSA BROOKS**
Special to the Los Angeles Times

*Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.*

The Georgians have now been punished enough, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev declared Tuesday. Or maybe not. On Thursday, Russian tanks remained in control of the Georgian city of Gori, in violation of a cease-fire agreement. U.S. officials say that Russians might be preparing to withdraw troops from Georgia. But still there could be more punishment in store for the Georgians, who were stupid enough to imagine that if they picked a fight with Russia over the disputed region of South Ossetia, Uncle Sam would ride to their rescue.

Puh-lease. Haven't the Georgians noticed that we're sort of busy in Afghanistan and Iraq? That even if we had any available troops, we're not going to get involved in a shooting war with Russia, which has the world's second-largest nuclear arsenal? That we have no other forms of leverage over Russia these days?

So where did the Georgians get the silly idea that the U.S. would bail them out?

Maybe from John McCain, Republican heir apparent, whose top foreign policy adviser, Randy Scheunemann, also just happens to be a highly paid lobbyist for the Georgian government. Whoops -- correction! Scheunemann used to be a highly paid lobbyist for Georgia. The McCain campaign says Scheunemann hasn't taken a dime from the Georgians since May 15. (Which is lucky for the Georgians, who are going to need all the spare cash they can get to rebuild all the stuff the Russians just bombed.)

According to The Washington Post, the relationship between Scheunemann and Georgia used to be very cozy (not to mention lucrative for Scheunemann). Between Jan. 1, 2007, and May 15, 2008, while Scheunemann also was a paid McCain adviser, "Georgia paid his firm $290,000 in lobbying fees."

And what did Georgia get in return? Well, no troops, that's for sure. But they got Scheunemann's (expensive) pledge to garner U.S. support for Georgia's admission to NATO and for its claims to South Ossetia, and his commitment to use his ties to politicians such as McCain to advance Georgia's causes. McCain has sponsored legislation supporting Georgia's claims over South Ossetia, an issue on which he was lobbied by Scheunemann's company. And as recently as mid-April, Scheunemann was simultaneously taking money from Georgia and actively preparing McCain for supportive calls with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Is it any wonder that Saakashvili concluded that he had the backing of the U.S. Republican power structure when it came to South Ossetia?

But Scheunemann and McCain aren't the only ones who irresponsibly encouraged the Georgians to think that baiting the Russians was going to work for them.

President Bush shares the blame. Once he stopped swooning over the soulfulness of "Vladimir's" baby blues, Bush seemed intent on showing Putin and other Russian leaders that he no longer gave a damn. The Bush administration supported the "color revolutions" in Russia's back yard and denounced antidemocratic crackdowns in Russia -- while making excuses for "friendly" authoritarian regimes elsewhere. The administration also virtually shut down extensive multi-issue dialogues with Russia that had been maintained by previous administrations, hammering in the message that we didn't care much about good relations with Moscow.

The administration also aggressively pushed policies that couldn't have been better designed to enrage the Russians. At the April NATO summit in Romania, Bush urged a fast track to NATO membership for Georgia. The U.S. also insisted this summer on the deployment of an almost certainly useless missile-defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, virtually on Moscow's doorstep.

Meanwhile, the administration singled out Georgia for the "Our Best Buddy in the Caucasus" award. The U.S. has supported the development of gas and oil pipelines running through Georgia that will challenge Russia's regional economic hegemony, and provided the fledgling Georgian republic generous economic and military aid, including an overhaul of its forces. In return, Georgia sent 2,000 troops to Iraq, and the administration pretended to be deaf when Georgian politicians crowed that their newly improved military would be perfect for teaching those pesky South Ossetian separatists a lesson.

But it's all gone disastrously wrong for our best buddies, and we're sitting on the sidelines, offering empty reassurances to the Georgians and empty threats to the Russians.

Moscow will stop pummeling Georgia when it decides the Georgians have truly been punished enough. And this being the real world, punishment will rain down on the pawns -- but those who egged them on (to score political points, seek power or gain profit) will, of course, face no punishment at all.

# Revelation about singer leaves that syncing feeling

**By PAUL FARHI**
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The first scandal of the Beijing Olympics is in, and the loser, apparently, is China. As the assembled global media reported this week, Chinese officials last week quietly made a little switch at the Opening Ceremonies, replacing a 7-year-old singer with a child deemed more attractive, who passed off the first girl's recording as her own on TV.

Which raises a question: Lip-syncing is an international scandal?

One answer: Under the circumstances, maybe it should be.

On the face of it, lip-syncing is no big deal. Most performers in music videos or movie musicals use it. Singer-dancers do it in live performances, too, given the difficulty of dancing and singing simultaneously. Heck, even the Beatles did it in their early British TV appearances.

Using a glamorous stand-in for a more accomplished singer has a fine tradition, too. Didn't Hollywood do it when it hired Natalie Wood (dubbed by songbird Marni Nixon) to star in "West Side Story"? Didn't it do the same thing with Audrey Hepburn (Nixon again) in "My Fair Lady" or Deborah Kerr (yep, Nixon) in "The King and I"?

So what's wrong with the Chinese doing the same thing during their $100 million floor show?

The difference might be that from the West's perspective, the Chinese story plays into a larger narrative of totalitarian control and perfectionism. Although barely visible in NBC's glossy prime-time coverage of these Games, the lip-syncing episode taps a deeper suspicion about China's authoritarianism and groupthink. Lip-Syncgate seems to expose the iron hand behind the smiling faces in Beijing.

The decision to bench 7-year-old Yang Peiyi, who had won a kind of "Chinese Idol" contest to sing at the Opening Ceremonies, was reportedly made at the last minute by a member of China's politburo. That alone sounds both odd and chilling. Imagine, if possible, the Western equivalent: On the eve of a big Broadway opening, the secretary of commerce emerges from the wings and overrules the show's director on the big finale. More chorus girls! the bureaucrat orders.

*L'affaire Lip-sync* reminded the world that such state control is business as usual. "This was a last-minute question, a choice we had to make," the ceremony's musical designer, Chen Qigang, said in an interview with Associated Press Television. "Our rehearsals had already been vetted several times. They were all very strict. When we had the dress rehearsals, there were spectators from various divisions, including, above all, a member of the politburo, who gave us his verdict: We had to make the swap."

It should be a measure of China's openness that Chen revealed the switch. After all, greater engagement with the West, and its democratic values, was one of the International Olympic Committee's stated justifications in awarding China these Games.

But there was no such official transparency in this case. Chen isn't a Chinese citizen; he's a French national. He said in interviews that he felt compelled "to come out with the truth" after Chinese officials sought to hide the decision to dump Yang.

For the Chinese, the story only got worse. Chen, as well as several apparently embarrassed Chinese officials, sought to cast the decision not only on aesthetic grounds—Yang's replacement, Lin Miaoke, was deemed prettier on TV—but also as a matter of patriotic pride.

"The main consideration was the national interest," Chen said. "It is a question of the image of our national music, our national culture. ... After all, we have a perfect voice, a perfect image and a perfect show, in our team's view, all together."

In other words, state planning and social engineering at its finest.

There's also the question of the song itself. NBC host Bob Costas reported that the song was called "A Hymn to My Country," which seems to be a more benign translation than the title reported elsewhere: "Ode to the Motherland."

"Hymn." Hmm, that sounds kind of religious.

"Motherland." Why, that sounds ... communistic.

A small detail, in a minor incident. But a reminder that perhaps East and West haven't fully reconciled their values. And not even a $100 million kickoff party can change that.

# The skinny on Obama

**By JIM SHEA**
(c) 2008, The Hartford Courant

For everybody out there who is on vacation and/or still a few weeks from turning your brains back on, let me just assure you that when it comes to the presidential campaigns, you are not missing much.

Probably the most surprising thing that has happened so far is that Paris Hilton has emerged as a viable Oval Office option.

In a counterattack ad aimed at responding to an attack ad run by that "wrinkly, white-haired guy" comparing Barack Obama to herself and Britney Spears, Hilton ended up coming across as the clear-thinking moderate voters are looking for. Plus, as Hilton herself pointed out, she's "hot."

On the Obama front, his big initiative this summer was to take John McCain's advice and bring the entire liberal-loving mainstream media on a tour of Iraq, Afghanistan and Europe.

The trip would be a success, the pundits said, if Obama didn't say or do anything stupid, which he didn't. He drew big crowds, impressed foreign leaders and drew lots of praise. He was roundly criticized, however, for coming across as "too presidential."

I not sure how one comes across as "too presidential," but it may have something to do with not engaging in any masseuse diplomacy.

McCain has occupied himself by launching a series of—I guess bizarre is the word—attack ads including one called "The One," which I think drew a comparison between Obama and Moses.

This ad added to the growing view that McCain's campaign lacks a consistent message. How can you link Obama to Hilton, Spears and Moses when the latter, everyone pretty much agrees, is not "hot."

If that isn't weird enough, last week McCain was passing out tire gauges.

While McCain was doing his required political penance eating meat on a stick at the Iowa State Fair this week, Obama was still on vacation in Hawaii. Vacation? Are we getting just a little bit too cocky here?

Anyway, while the campaigns bumbled along, members of the media were doing their best to avoid anything that might get them accused of being substantive.

*The Wall Street Journal* actually ran a story—I'm not making this up—asking if Obama might be too thin to be president. Is this a Murdoch thing? Was this a veiled attempt to label Obama a lightweight?

Not to be outdone, NPR, the most liberal-loving of the liberal-loving mainstream media, aired a commentary by Cokie Roberts in which she opined that by going to Hawaii on vacation, Obama risked being seen as "exotic."

Exotic? Let's see, Obama grew up in Hawaii, he was visiting his grandmother who lives in Hawaii, Hawaii has been a state for a while now, and every American with an excess of frequent-flier miles has probably vacationed there themselves. I guess we should be grateful Obama wasn't photographed in a Hawaiian shirt.

As a further indication of just how weird things are in the media right now, *The National Enquirer* has established itself as the reigning paragon of investigative journalism.

While the highfalutin' mainstream media held its nose, the *Enquirer* broke the story that John Edwards had an affair with a campaign staffer, who later had a child, who does not appear to be a two-headed alien.

Edwards denies he is the father, but Enquiring minds want to see what the hair looks like.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲88° ▼77° |

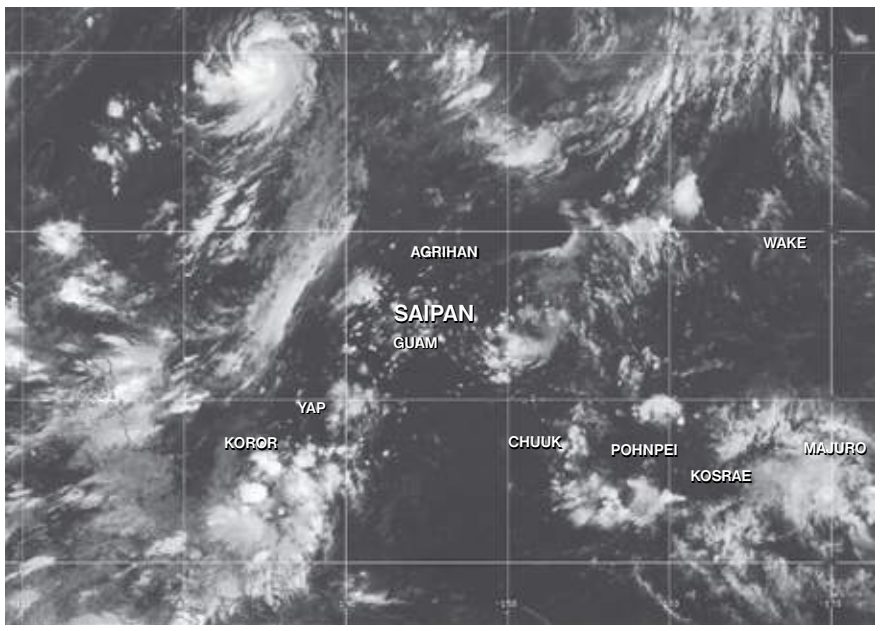
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Mostly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Thundershowers | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲83 | ▼72 |
| Kosrae | Mostly Cloudy | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲83 | ▼73 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | ▲55 | ▼50 |
| Beijing | Partly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼73 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | ▲90 | ▼81 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲85 | ▼76 |
| London | Showers | ▲66 | ▼57 |
| Los Angeles | Cloudy | ▲84 | ▼66 |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ▲56 | ▼44 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲90 | ▼78 |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼67 |
| Osaka | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | ▲62 | ▼54 |
| Pusan | Thunderstorms | ▲82 | ▼76 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲83 | ▼60 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲97 | ▼58 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲69 | ▼56 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲87 | ▼72 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲89 | ▼79 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼65 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands within 125 miles of a line from 17N140E to 12N152E. A weak frontal boundary is causing scattered showers within 50 miles of a line from 24N150E to 25N153E. A surface trough northeast of Yap extends from 9N141E to 11N140E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of the trough. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Palau or south of a line from 4N132E to 7N134E to 7N140E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Chuuk and south of Pohnpei or within 100 miles of a line from 4N154E to 4N160E. Low-level convergence along the ITCZ and remnants of tropical storm Kika are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Kosrae and south and east of Majuro or within 150 miles of a line from 4N168E eastward past 5N180.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1:25AM Today | Low Tide: | 1.1 Feet |
| 6:21AM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 1:40PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 8:29PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:03AM | 6:40 PM |
| Sunday | 6:03AM | 6:39 PM |
| Monday | 6:03AM | 6:39 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:03AM | 6:38 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:03AM | 6:37 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:14PM | 5:10AM |
| Sunday | 6:53PM | 6:03AM |
| Monday | 7:31PM | 6:55AM |
| Tuesday | 8:09PM | 7:47AM |
| Wednesday | 8:48PM | 8:39AM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

### DEPARTURES

**Saipan-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9313 | 8:30am | 9:05am | 3,4,7 |

**Saipan-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 4:00am | 4:50am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1,2,5,6 |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | Daily |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Narita**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:40am | Daily |
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 2:00pm | Daily |
| NW 075 | 4:45pm | 7:25pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Osaka**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 083 | 4:20pm | 7:05pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Nagoya**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 11:35am | Daily |

**Saipan-Seoul**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 604 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2,4,6,7 |

**Saipan-Busan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 608 | 3:50am | 7:20am | 1,4,5,7 |

**Guam-Manila**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 891 | 6:00am | 10:30am | 3 via Yap and Koror |
| CO 893 | 6:30am | 8:05am | 6 |
| CO 893 | 8:25am | 10:00am | 2,7 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 7:00pm | 8:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:45am | 1,2,4,6,7 |

**Saipan-Guanzhou**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ 3008 | 5:00am | 8:00am | 2,6 |

**Guam-Hongkong**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 909 | 6:40pm | 9:25pm | 1,5 |

**Guam-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 10:15am | 10:45am | 1,2,6 |

### ARRIVALS

**Rota-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 11:10am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 |

**Guam-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | Daily |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9598 | 10:15am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 via Rota |
| CO9600 | 10:45am | 11:35am | 3,4,5,7 |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**Narita-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:55pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |
| NW 100 | 8:45pm | 1:25am+1 | Daily |

**Osaka-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 084 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |

**Nagoya-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |

**Seoul-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2,4,6,7 |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |

**Busan-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 607 | 9:30pm | 2:50am+1 | 3,4,6,7 |

**Manila-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 894 | 11:20am | 4:55pm | 2,7 |
| CO 894 | 7:45pm | 1:20am+1 | 6 |
| CO 892 | 9:45pm | 6:30am+1 | 3 via Koror and Yap |
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 10:55pm | 4:30am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:20pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |

**Guanzhou-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ 3007 | 8:00pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,5 |

**Hongkong-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 910 | 10:35pm | 5:15am+1 | 1,5 |

**Rota-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9313 | 9:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

## Schedule of Religious Services

### CATHOLIC

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

**Korean Center**
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

**Kristo Rai Parish**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

**Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish**
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

**Saint Jude Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

**San Antonio Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

**San Francisco de Borja-Rota**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

**San Isidro-Rota**
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

**San Jose (Oleai) Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

**San Roque Parish**
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

**San Vicente Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

**Santa Remedios**
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

**Santa Soledad**
Sunday: 7:30am

### PROTESTANT

**Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan**
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

**Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

**Chinese Christian Church of Saipan**
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

**Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan**
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

**Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

**Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan**
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

**Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan**
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

**Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville**
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

**Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)**
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

**Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan**
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

**Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

**Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

**Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan**
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

**Missions Connection Ministry**
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

**Northern Marianas Christian Church**
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

**Saipan Bible Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

**Saipan Christian Church**
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

**Saipan Church of Christ**
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

**Saipan Community Church**
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan**
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

**First Baptist Church**
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

**Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center**
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

**Upper Room International Ministries**
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

**Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

## Flashback
### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### August 16, 1999

**Tinian readies for illegal immigrants**
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has placed local authorities on alert after the federal government asked the Northern Marianas again to host a new batch of suspected illegal Chinese immigrants believed to be heading toward Guam. He has already mobilized key government agencies in anticipation of the arrival on Tinian of a boat carrying some 150 undocumented aliens from mainland China sighted last week by U.S. Coast Guard near the Marianas territorial waters.

**BOE wants more power for Inos**
The Board of Education is asking lawmakers to further expand the education commissioner's controlling power over capital infrastructure money to include authority to enter into contracts for school projects. The contracting power sought by board members for Education Commissioner the Rita H. Inos would be in addition to the House of Representatives' proposal to give her expending authority over CIP funds.

**DPS communications system not Y2K complaint**
The Department of Public Safety is seeking additional funding of $500,000 to upgrade its deteriorating radio communications system and make sure its ready when the millennium computer glitch comes. Failure to upgrade the system will hamper the delivery of services because police cars, ambulance and fire trucks will be not able to respond to emergency calls, said Vicente Seman, DPS director of Police Services, in a memorandum sent to the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

### August 16, 2000

**House eyes abortion bill**
The House of Representatives is expected to come out with legislation that will seek CNMI's policy on abortion as the issue continues to divide the island community, according to the chair of the Committee on Health and Welfare. But Rep. Malua T. Peter stressed that she personally favors reiterating the constitutional ban against abortion on the islands despite attempt by some quarters to legalize the practice.

**Partial PCB cleanup to begin Aug. 28**
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor the Environmental Chemical Corp. met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday to inform the chief executive that removal of polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated soil in Cemetery No. 2 is set to begin on Aug. 28. Testings will be conducted by ECC to determine the temporary storage area for the excavated soil. Eight staff from ECC will be arriving soon to carryout the cleanup.

**AG stops eviction of Marpi ranchers**
Owners of cattle ranches in Marpi are given a stay in the eviction order issued two weeks ago by the government, which is supposed to take effect today. Attorney General Herbert D. Soll said yesterday his office is now looking into the appeal by lawmakers to rescind the order, while deferring action to boot ranchers out of the area in northern Saipan. "When [lawmakers] comment on particular issue, we have sympathetic view towards what they have requested," he told reporters in an interview.

### August 16, 2001

**NMI lost millions in CIP funds**
The CNMI has lost more than a hundred million dollars of CIP funds that would have been used to finance various projects had it not for the alleged financial mismanagement by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The disclosure was made by a counsel of the Commonwealth Development Authority, just when an official of the Office of Insular Affairs agreed with projections that the newly-implemented tax cuts in the mainland US may have an impact on federal grants to the CNMI.

**Pabuk inundates Saipan**
Continuous rain flooded some areas on Saipan, as tropical storm Pabuk threatened to devastate the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday, the Emergency Management Office said. But as of 9pm last night, the EMO's operations division said the storm signal was canceled. Yesterday morning, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio declared tropical storm condition 1 on Agrihan Island located north of Saipan. At 8pm last night, the governor declared an "all clear condition" for the islands.

# Business

## Oil drops below $114 on slowing economies

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices dropped below $114 a barrel Friday in Asia as investors speculated slowing economic growth in the world's largest economies will continue to undermining global crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell $1.40 to $113.61 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell 99 cents overnight to settle at $115.01 a barrel.

"Worries about an economic slowdown in the U.S. and Europe, and even Japan, are weighing on the oil market," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Europe'sbiggesteconomies—Germany, France and Italy—all contracted in the second quarter. Japan said this week its gross domestic product also shrank in the April-June period.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported earlier this week a bigger-than-expected drop in gasoline supplies, but also said U.S. demand for refined fuel products continues to fall.

A stronger dollar this week is also helping to push oil prices lower. The dollar rose to about 110 yen on Friday while the euro was little changed at $1.4773.

"With the dollar gaining strength against the euro and yen, oil and other commodities have come down," Shum said. "Oil is not so much a hedge against a falling dollar anymore."

## 32 arrested outside Disneyland

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Cinderella, Snow White, Tinkerbell and other fictional fixtures of modern-day childhood were handcuffed, frisked and loaded into police vans Thursday at the culmination of a labor protest that brought a touch of reality to the Happiest Place on Earth.

The arrest of the 32 protesters, many of whom wore costumes representing famous Disney characters, came at the end of an hour-long march to Disneyland's gates from one of three Disney-owned hotels at the center of a labor dispute.

Those who were arrested sat in a circle on a busy intersection outside the park holding hands until they were placed in plastic handcuffs and led to two police vans while hundreds of hotel workers cheered and chanted.

The protesters were arrested on a misdemeanor count of failure to obey a police officer and two traffic infractions, said Sgt. Rick Martinez of the Anaheim police. They were cited and released, Sgt. Chris Schneider said.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Consumer prices surge, job market remains strained**
**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Inflation is running at the fastest pace in 17 years, the job market is under further strain and foreclosure filings are surging. A raft of gloomy economic data on Thursday represented a setback for those hoping to see signs of better times ahead and it may keep the Federal Reserve jammed between rising inflation and slowing growth. The Labor Department reported that consumer prices shot up by 0.8 percent in July, double the increase that economists had expected. The rise was only slightly lower than the 1.1 percent surge in June that had been the second-highest monthly increase in the last 26 years. The big gains left inflation increasing by 5.6 percent over the past year, the largest 12-month jump since the period ending in January 1991.

**Wall Street ends higher, buoyed by drop in oil**
**NEW YORK** (AP)—Wall Street rebounded Thursday, rising sharply as oil prices fell and investors took advantage of bargains in financial stocks after two straight days of heavy declines. The Dow Jones industrial index rose 82.97, or 0.72 percent, to close at 11,615.93, after rising more than 180 points earlier. It lost a total of nearly 250 points on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.10, or 0.55 percent, to 1,292.93, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 25.05, or 1.03 percent, to 2,453.67. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

**JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley settle securities probe**
**NEW YORK** (AP)—JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Morgan Stanley on Thursday became the latest banks to reach settlements with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and other regulators as part of a investigation into the collapse of the auction-rate securities market. The pair of banks will repurchase a combined $7 billion in the troubled securities at face value from investors. Morgan Stanley agreed to pay a fine of $35 million, while JPMorgan will pay a fine of $25 million. JPMorgan and Morgan Stanley are the third and fourth to reach settlements, following deals by UBS AG and Citigroup Inc. last week. Regulators continue to investigate other banks as well.

# Nation

## Obama campaign issues rebuttal

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama hit back Thursday with a 40-page rebuttal to the best-selling book "The Obama Nation," arguing the author is a fringe bigot peddling rehashed lies.

Jerome Corsi's anti-Obama book, "The Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality," claims the Illinois senator is a dangerous, radical candidate for president. The book is a compilation of all the innuendo and false rumors against Obama—that he was raised a Muslim, attended a radical, black church and secretly has a "black rage" hidden beneath the surface.

In fact, Obama is a Christian who attended Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

The Obama campaign picked apart the book's claims in a rebuttal titled "Unfit For Publication," to be posted on the Obama campaign's rumor-fighting Web site, FightTheSmears.com. The title is a play on the book Corsi co-authored against 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's military service called "Unfit For Command."

"Jerome Corsi is a discredited liar who is peddling another piece of garbage to continue the Bush-Cheney politics he helped perpetuate four years ago," said Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor. "His is just one of what will likely be many more lie-filled books rushed to print this election cycle, which are cobbled together from debunked Internet sources to make money and advance a partisan agenda. We will respond to these smears forcefully with all means at our disposal

Corsi's book is off to a swift start and is No. 1 on The New York Times' hardcover nonfiction best-seller list, even though Obama's campaign would argue the book should be listed as fiction.

Obama's campaign says the book is full of factual inaccuracies that include the wrong date for the Obamas' marriage.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., walks down the steps with his children and friends at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008. Sen. Obama is in Hawaii for a vacation. Obama's daughters Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, are seen second left and center. Others are unidentified.

## Texas jury rejects lawsuit against Osteen's wife

**HOUSTON** (AP)—The wife of televangelist Joel Osteen thanked and praised God after a jury unanimously decided Thursday that she did not assault a flight attendant during an angry tirade over a stain on her first-class seat. Jurors rejected Continental Airlines flight attendant Sharon Brown's claims that Victoria Osteen threw her against a bathroom door and elbowed her in the left breast while attempting to rush the cockpit because she was angry that a stain on her seat's armrest was not quickly cleaned up.

Victoria Osteen began to cry after the jury's verdict was read. She hugged her attorneys and several supporters in the courtroom as she said "thank you God" and "praise God." The 12 jurors deliberated for about 2 1/2 hours.

"I'm glad it's over," Victoria Osteen said afterward. "I expected it because it's the truth and I know the truth always stands firm."

Joel Osteen said he and his family hold no ill will toward Brown.

"It's a great vindication and shows us the faithfulness of God," he said.

AP

Rusty Hardin, right, attorney for Lakewood Church co-pastor Victoria Osteen, center, and her husband, Joel Osteen, left, give a news conference in the Harris County Civil Courthouse in Houston on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008 after a jury found that Victoria Osteen had not committed an assault against Continental Airlines flight attendant Sharon Brown.

## Woman who had dogs cloned wanted in Tennessee

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—A woman who made headlines by having five pups cloned and was linked to an abduction case in England is also wanted in Tennessee on charges she tried to plan a burglary in 2004, a defense attorney and prosecutors there said. Joyce Bernann McKinney was charged in Carter County with criminal conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and failure to appear in court, said attorney David Crockett, who represented her in the Tennessee case. Authorities there said she instructed a 15-year-old boy to break into a house, and Crockett said she needed the money to buy a false leg for a beloved horse.

Crockett said Thursday he hasn't heard from her since she skipped a court date, but after seeing television coverage of the cloning case, he's certain she's the same person known to the world as dog lover Bernann McKinney.

## Idaho killer's jury sees tortured kids' letters

**BOISE, Idaho** (AP)—The father of two children murdered and another sexually assaulted by a convicted sex offender testified at the killer's federal death-penalty hearing Thursday, showing pictures of his youngest children and choking up after confirming their handwriting on notes apparently written at their kidnapper's behest. Steven Groene said it was the first time he had seen one of the letters, which offered a false promise. "I have good news we will be home soon," it read, "maybe in a week or 2."

Joseph Edward Duncan III pleaded guilty in December to 10 federal charges in the 2005 kidnappings of Dylan and Shasta Groene, and the slaying of Dylan. A federal jury is determining whether he should be put to death or spend life in prison without parole.

Earlier, Duncan pleaded guilty in state court to murdering the children's older brother, their mother and the mother's fiance during the attack at the family's Coeur d'Alene home. Prosecutors say he killed the three to kidnap and sexually brutalize Dylan, 9, and Shasta, then 8.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Man arrested in Vegas slaying of former Olympian

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—A Las Vegas man suspected of fatally shooting a former Olympic boxer who was struggling to jumpstart his flagging career was arrested Wednesday near the Nevada-Arizona border, police said. Arizona troopers arrested Roger Randolph, 26, during a traffic stop near Dolan Springs, Ariz. He was being held on fugitive charges in the Mohave County jail. Rhoshii Wells, 31, died after he was shot twice in the torso Monday outside his apartment complex in a hardscrabble Las Vegas neighborhood. Wells, a middleweight, won the bronze medal in the 165-pound boxing class at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

### Appeals court in NYC will rehear torture case

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A federal appeals court will reconsider its decision to toss out a Canadian engineer's lawsuit over torture he says he endured after being mistaken for an Islamic extremist. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan notified lawyers Wednesday that the full panel of 13 judges will rehear Maher Arar's case, which a three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit dismissed in June. The Syrian-born Arar was detained in 2002 after switching planes at John F. Kennedy International Airport as he returned to Canada from vacation. Federal authorities say he had been wrongly listed as an al-Qaida member. Arar, 37, who lives in Ottawa, said in a lawsuit that he was freed only after being sent to Syria and tortured during nearly a year in prison. Syria has denied he was tortured. He was released without charges and returned to Canada.

### Clinton to get roll call at Democratic convention

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Turns out Democratic primary loser Hillary Rodham Clinton will get time to shine at the party's national convention after all—and quite a bit of it. Democrats officially will choose Barack Obama to run against Republican John McCain this fall. But in an emblematic move meant to heal divisive primary wounds, the vanquished Clinton name also will be placed in nomination alongside his during the traditional state-by-state delegation roll call vote at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. And, she gets her own plum speaking slot. So does her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

### Crane leg collapses in Mass. shipyard; 1 dead

**QUINCY, Mass.** (AP)—The leg of a giant crane being dismantled at a shipyard collapsed on Thursday, killing an ironworker, a city official said. Workers had been dismantling the 25-story crane known as Goliath for several weeks at the Fore River Shipyard in preparation for its shipment to Romania. The workers were removing pieces of the crane to force the support leg to fall, but it came down before they were prepared, Fire Chief Joseph Barron said at an afternoon news conference. The victim was identified as Robert Harvey, 28, of Weymouth. Authorities said four other workers suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Two were treated at the scene and two at a hospital.

### Just 6 sign up for self-deportation in 1st week

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—Just six illegal immigrants volunteered to leave the United States in the first week of a pilot program inviting nearly a half-million people to self-deport, federal officials said. The six who signed up by Wednesday evening included an Estonian in Phoenix, a married Indian couple and a Guatemalan in Chicago, a Salvadoran in Charlotte, N.C., and a Mexican in San Diego, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement program in San Diego. Program participants get three months to wrap up their personal affairs and peace of mind that agents won't raid their homes.

### Pregnant NY traffic agent is hit, dies; baby lives

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A pregnant New York City traffic agent was struck by a van, run over by a bus and killed on Thursday, but doctors were able to save her baby. Police said Donnette Sanz, 33, was seven months pregnant when she was struck by a van in the Bronx and pushed in front of a bus, which ran her over. Witnesses said onlookers lifted the bus and pulled Sanz from under it. Doctors at a nearby hospital saved Sanz' 3-pound son by doing an emergency Caesarean section. The boy was in critical condition. Police arrested the 72-year-old van driver, and said charges were pending. They did not identify the driver or say what charges he would face.

# Asia/World

## Russia: Georgia can 'forget' regaining provinces

**TBILISI, Georgia** (AP)—The foreign minister of Russia said Thursday that Georgia could "forget about" getting back its two breakaway provinces, and the former Soviet republic remained on edge as Russia sent tank columns to search out and destroy Georgian military equipment.

Uncertainty about Russia's intentions and back-and-forth charges clouded the conflict two days after Russia and Georgia signaled acceptance of a French-brokered cease-fire, and a week after Georgia's crackdown on the two provinces drew a Russian military response.

Diplomats focused on finalizing a fragile cease-fire between the two nations and clear the way for Russian withdrawal. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was heading Friday for Georgia to press the president to sign the deal.

Georgian officials accused Russia of sending a column of tanks and other armored vehicles toward Kutaisi, the second-largest city in Georgia, then said the convey stopped about 35 miles out.

"We have no idea what they're doing there, why the movement, where they're going," Georgian Prime Minister Lado Gurgenidze said in a telephone briefing. "One explanation could be they are trying to rattle the civilian population."

The U.S. said a move toward Kutaisi would be a matter of great concern, but two defense officials told The Associated Press the Pentagon did not detect any major movement by Russia troops or tanks. There was no immediate response from Russia itself.

"I think the world should think very carefully about what is going on here," Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said. "We need to stop everything that can be stopped now."

## Bombs target Shiite pilgrims in Iraq, kills 18

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—A woman suicide bomber struck Shiite pilgrims south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 18 people and wounding scores of others after the government announced new measures to protect worshippers ahead of a major religious festival.

Also Thursday, the U.S. military announced that six Navy guards face trial for allegedly assaulting prisoners and releasing pepper spray into a cellblock following a disturbance at the main U.S. prison in Iraq

The woman bomber detonated her explosives among a group of pilgrims resting by the side of a road in Iskandariyah, a former Sunni insurgent stronghold 30 miles south of Baghdad. Women were cooking dinner, men were praying and children were playing nearby when the attacker struck, a witness said.

"Minutes after I passed the resting spot, I heard a big explosion. I turned my head and saw big flames," said Ahmed al-Saadi, a 34-year-old carpenter from Baghdad's Sadr City district. "We rushed to the scene and saw charred bodies, while wounded people were crying for help. Pots and burned prayer rugs were scattered all over the place."

There were conflicting casualty tolls as is common in such attacks where bodies are mangled and idenitication is difficult

The U.S. military put the death toll at 18, including one policeman and 17 civilians, and said a lone woman bomber was responsible. A senior provincial security officer said 26 people were killed and 75 wounded. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to release the figure.

The fact that such a brazen attack could take place in an area where U.S. and Iraqi officials had touted major security improvements is an ominous sign of the risks still posed by extremists.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Syria, Lebanon to negotiate demarcation of border

**DAMASCUS, Syria** (AP)—Syria agreed Thursday to begin negotiations with Lebanon on demarcating their border, making its second concession in two days to longtime demands from the Lebanese as they seek to normalize relations with their dominant larger neighbor. Formally setting the border is a key symbolic move recognizing Lebanon's sovereignty, as was Syria's agreement a day earlier for the two nations to establish diplomatic relations for the first time. But the agreements won't mean an end to Syrian influence in Lebanon, and some Lebanese—as well as Washington—remain concerned that the Damascus regime will continue to try to exercise power over its neighbor.

### Libya, US settle all terror-related lawsuits

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Libya and the United States settled all outstanding lawsuits by American victims of terrorism on Thursday, clearing the way for the full restoration of diplomatic relations. There were 26 pending lawsuits filed by American citizens against Libya for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and other attacks, said a senior Libyan government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details of the deal had not been publicly announced The official said there were also three outstanding lawsuits filed by Libyan citizens for U.S. airstrikes on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 that Libyans say killed 41 people, including leader Moammar Gadhafi's adopted daughter. State Department spokesman Robert Wood confirmed the deal.

### IOC tells China not to obstruct reporters

**BEIJING** (AP)—The International Olympic Committee urged China Thursday to allow foreign reporters at the Beijing Games to report freely after a British journalist trying to cover a protest was allegedly roughed up by police. Meanwhile, activists complained that protest zones designated by Beijing organizers were set up as a way to catch dissidents—not let them speak out. At least one person who applied to hold a demonstration in one of protest parks was detained by police. At its daily briefing, the IOC was peppered with questions about an incident the day before in which a British TV journalist said he was manhandled and dragged into a police van while trying to cover an unauthorized protest by activists pushing for independence for Tibet. Police have said they mistook him for a protester

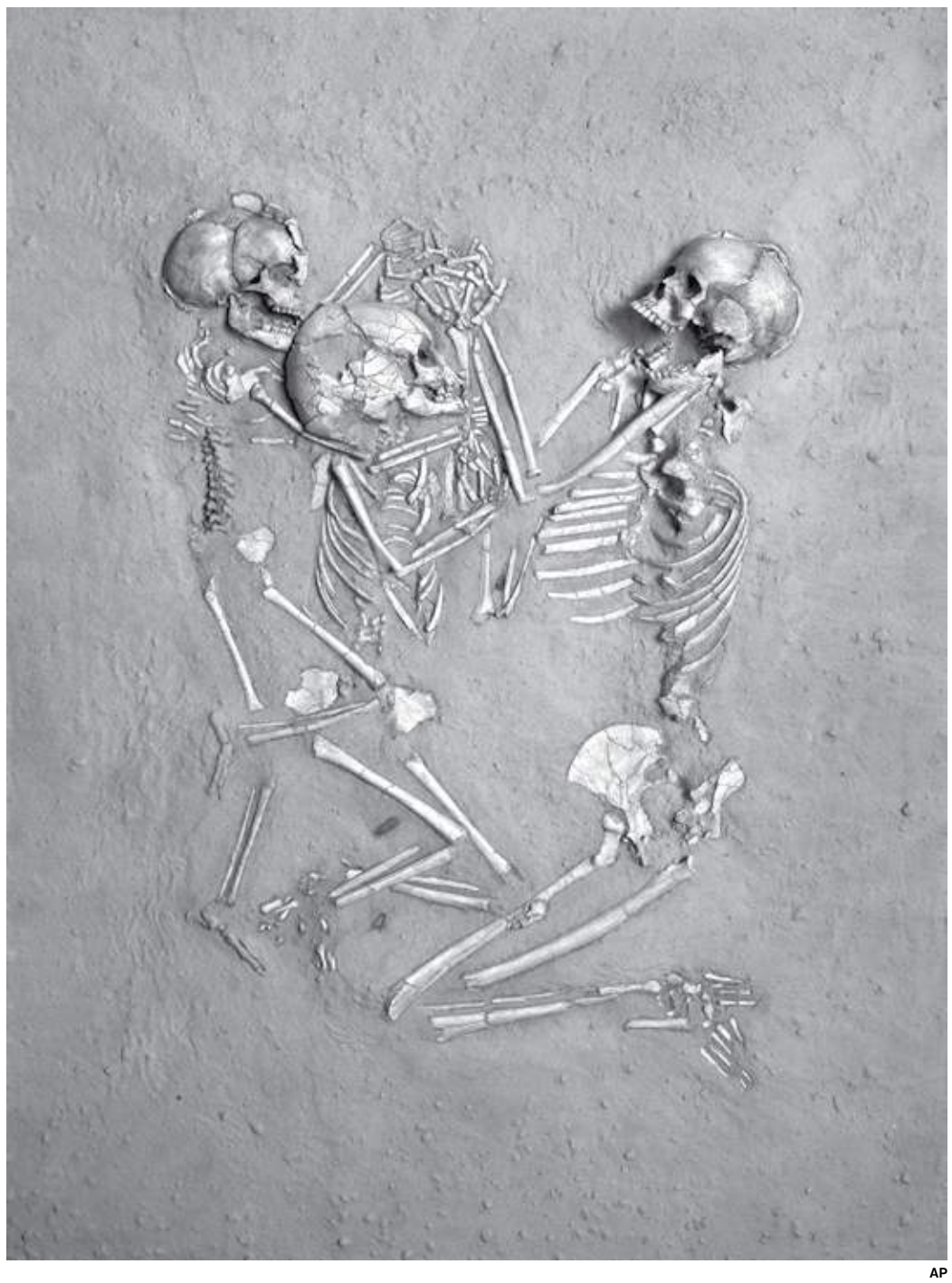
### Afghan blast kills 3 in US-led coalition

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—An explosion targeting international troops on a foot patrol in southern Afghanistan killed three members of the U.S.-led coalition Thursday, the coalition said. The coalition did not release any details about the attack, including the troops' nationalities or the location of the blast. American forces make up the vast majority of the coalition, which includes special forces units and soldiers who train Afghan army and police forces. The 40-nation NATO-led force operates under a separate command.

### Taiwan's Chen: I broke the law

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan's former president admitted Thursday that he broke the law by not truthfully declaring campaign donations he received, and said that his wife sent an unspecified amount of money abroad. Chen Shui-bian's statement followed a lawmaker's allegations earlier in the day that Chen's son and daughter-in-law moved $31 million to Switzerland in 2007. Hung Hsiu-chu of the ruling Nationalists said the money was then forwarded to the Cayman Islands. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry confirmed Thursday that Swiss authorities had asked the island to cooperate in an unspecified case.

## Remains of cemetery found in Sahara



AP

This undated handout photo provided by the National Geographic Society, shows the skeletons and artifacts of the exceptional triple burial at Gobero preserved in this cast exactly as found by Paul Sereno, Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A tiny woman and two children were laid to rest on a bed of flowers 5,000 years ago in what is now the barren Sahara Desert. The slender arms of the youngsters were still extended to the woman in perpetual embrace when researchers discovered their skeletons in a remarkable cemetery that is providing clues to two civilizations who lived there, a thousand years apart, when the region was moist and green.

Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago and colleagues were searching for the remains of dinosaurs in the African country of Niger when they came across the startling find, detailed at a news conference Thursday at the National Geographic Society.

"Part of discovery is finding things that you least expect," he said. "When you come across something like that in the middle of the desert it sends a tingle down your spine."

Some 200 graves of humans were found during fieldwork at the site in 2005 and 2006, as well as remains of animals, large fish and crocodiles.

"Everywhere you turned, there were bones belonging to animals that don't live in the desert," said Sereno. "I realized we were in the green Sahara."

The graveyard, uncovered by hot desert winds, is near what would have been a lake at the time people lived there. It's in a region called Gobero, hidden away in Niger's forbidding Tenere Desert, known to Tuareg nomads as a "desert within a desert."

The human remains dated from two distinct populations that lived there during wet times, with a dry period in between.

The researchers used radiocarbon dating to determine when these ancient people lived there. Even the most recent were some 1,000 years before the building of the pyramids in Egypt.

The first group, known as the Kiffian, hunted wild animals and speared huge perch with harpoons. They colonized the region when the Sahara was at its wettest, between 10,000 and 8,000 years ago.

The researchers said the Kiffians were tall, sometimes reaching well over 6 feet.

The second group lived in the region between 7,000 and 4,500 years ago. The Tenerians were smaller and had a mixed economy of hunting, fishing and cattle herding.

# Maharlika

## Peso tumbles to 44.975 to $1

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The peso Thursday tumbled close to the crucial 45-per-dollar mark as the double-whammy of a rebounding greenback and global oil prices revived risk aversion among foreign portfolio investors.

Foreign portfolio investors pulled out about $397.2 million, net of inflows, from January to July, dumping Philippine stocks, bonds and bank products on jitters over rising inflation. It was a turnaround from the $3.6 billion in net inflow recorded in the same period last year.

The peso led the slump among Asian currencies, closing at a four-week low of 44.975 to the dollar, compared with Wednesday's close at 44.720.

The peso opened trading at the day's peak of 44.75 and closed near the low of 44.98—its weakest since touching 45.03 on July 17.

Currency traders said a surprisingly strong US dollar rally over the past 10 days was due to heightened concerns over global economic growth, lower commodity prices and low levels of liquidity in the financial markets.

"It's because of the pullback in oil prices," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank strategist Jonathan Ravelas. "This also created demand (for dollars), as some took advantage of the lower peso to hedge against a potential recovery in oil prices."

"Also, there were fears that this might be the start of the reversal of the US dollar after a seven-year downtrend," he added.

**TENSION IN THE SOUTH**
Philippine troops ride on tanks as they regain control of Pikit town, North Cotabato, southern Philippines from Muslim rebels on Thursday Aug. 14, 2008. Tensions in the southern Philippines , the traditional homeland of minority Muslims , peaked this week after government troops retook the farming villages from about 1,000 guerrillas who occupied the area last month. ***See related story on Page 13.***

## Arroyo, Kuwaiti premier to take up OFWs' issues

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—The conditions of the Filipino workers in Kuwait will be on top of the agenda when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo meets with Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Friday.

Arroyo will formally welcome the Kuwaiti Prime Minister in ceremonies in Malacañang at 5:30 p.m. The schedule of the ceremony was originally set at 10:30 a.m.

The two leaders will hold an expanded bilateral meeting before witnessing the signing of agreements pertaining to Filipino workers in Kuwait, tourism, and new areas of cooperation.

There are at least 130,000 Filipinos in Kuwait.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah in December last year commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment of Filipino worker Marilou Ranario after President Arroyo went on a day-long visit to the Gulf state to personally appeal to the Kuwaiti ruler to spare the Filipina's life.

Ranario, a teacher from Surigao who went to Kuwait to work as a domestic helper, was sentenced to be hanged in 2005 for killing her 46-year-old female employer, who she said had insulted her and her country.

## LABOR FRONT

### Labor's orientation program

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

**Q: An alien worker who was just hired from the Philippines attended an orientation initiated by her employer. Does that worker still need to attend the Department of Labor's orientation program?**

**A:** The new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations provides that every foreign national worker who enters CNMI shall attend the first orientation session available after date of entry unless excused for illness or other unavoidable circumstance.

Upon renewal and registration with the Division of Immigration, the Labor director may require that some or all of the foreign national workers who entered the Commonwealth prior to the availability of the orientation program also attend an orientation session. The Regulations state that a Labor hearing officer may require any foreign national worker who files a complaint to attend an orientation session in order to be informed of rights and responsibilities.

■ ■ ■

Q: Where and when can a newly recruited alien worker attend Labor's orientation session?

A: Labor's orientation program on Saipan will be presented every Tuesday morning at 9am in the conference room on the second floor of Afetna Square Building in San Antonio, unless rescheduled or canceled by the Labor director. The orientation on Rota and Tinian will be scheduled as necessary.

■ ■ ■

**Q: What can one expect in the orientation?**

**A:** The presentation format is videotape, augmented by oral presentations as necessary. According to the Regulations, the videotape will address common questions from, and problems faced by, alien workers in the CNMI. The videotape will be revised periodically to incorporate new material or increase the effectiveness of the presentation.

The orientation shall be made available in Mandarin, Tagalog, and Korean, in addition to English. Foreign national workers from India and Bangladesh are presumed to have sufficient English to participate meaningfully in an orientation session in English. For other languages, the employer shall provide a translator when the alien worker attends the session.

*Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

## 34 OFWs from Georgia relocated to Turkey

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—The 34 overseas Filipino workers based in Georgia when war broke out were now in Turkey, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

Citing reports from Philippine Ambassador to Turkey Bahnarim Guinomla, DFA undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said the 34 who were working for Anel Construction Co. in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi arrived in Istanbul on August 13 after a 24-hour bus trip.

Conejos said the documents of those due for vacation would be processed so that they could proceed to Manila; the rest will stay in Istanbul until the situation in Tbilisi improves.

At the same time, Conejos said the 22 Filipinos, 20 of whom work for the International Container Terminal Services Inc., who were evacuated to Trabzon, Turkey, left the country on August 12 to return to Batumi, capital of Georgia's autonomous republic of Adjara.

They were assisted by an embassy team led by consul general Alfonso Ver, Conejos said.

The three other Filipinos living in Tbilisi—two of whom are married to Georgian nationals and one to a German hotel executive—are confirmed safe, Conejos said.

The six-day old conflict in Russia and Georgia has threatened to revive the Cold War.

## No Filipino casualty in Lebanon bombing

**MANILA, Philippines**—No Filipino was hurt in Wednesday's bombing in Tripoli, Lebanon, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

Citing charge d' affaires Gilberto Asuque of the Philippine embassy in Lebanon, DFA spokesman Claro Cristobal said the information was sourced from the Lebanese Red Cross and Filipino community leaders.

In a text message, Cristobal said there are about 500 overseas Filipino workers, mostly household service workers, in Tripoli, which is some 85 kilometers north of Beirut.

On Wednesday, a bomb was set off beside a moving bus in Tripoli, killing at least 18 people, mostly military personnel.

The Philippines has a standing deployment ban to Lebanon; most of the Filipinos currently there are workers who did not evacuate during the fighting between Hezbullah and Israeli forces. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

## Gov't urged to pursue Aussie accord on work, holiday visas

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—The government should pursue the signing of an agreement with Canberra that will allow young Filipinos to use Australia's work and holiday visa program, Senate President Pro Tempore Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada said in a statement Friday.

The program allows tertiary education graduates and students between the ages of 18 and 30 from participating countries to work in each other's country for up to 12 months while on a holiday vacation to subsidize their holiday, get experience and exposure in overseas work, and interact and familiarize with their host country's industries. Visa quota for the program starts at the minimum of 100, and is increased every year.

"This is a great program though which our young professionals and would-be professionals could be trained on their potential future permanent jobs in Australia. This would be another competitive advantage of them over job aspirants from other countries who had not undergone such training," said Estrada, who heads the Senate committee on labor, employment, and human resources development, and the joint congressional oversight committee on labor and employment.

"However, our Mission in Australia has not yet maximized the program, which many countries have been benefiting from for a long time already," the senator lamented.

Over the years, Australia has been expanding this visa program by signing agreements with new countries and increasing visa quotas for countries that are participating in the program.

On Aug. 7, 2008, Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Senator Chris Evans entered into agreements with Indonesia and Malaysia for implementation of the program. On August 9, Thailand, which became the first Southeast Asian country to participate in the program on July 2004, has received commitment from Evans to increase the visa quota to 500 program beneficiaries per year. On August 1, he also increased the visa quota for another participant, Chile.

# RP High Court hears Muslim peace pact

## Even as another bomb is defused in the south

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court opened a hearing Friday on an autonomy agreement with Muslim rebels, as tensions remained high with the discovery of another homemade bomb at a southern school.

Under tight security, the court began hearing arguments from the government and opponents of the accord, who claim it was unconstitutional and would lead to the partition of the Philippines. The court threw out a government motion to postpone the proceedings, court spokesman Midas Marquez said.

The military said Friday it found a bomb at the back of an elementary school in M'lang town in North Cotabato province, where troops had earlier dislodged about 1,000 Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas from 15 predominantly Christian villages in a three-day offensive.

Mayor Lito Pinol said the bomb was made from a 60 mm mortar round and a cell phone as a trigger, resembling an improvised bomb that went off prematurely in the same town on Thursday and another that was disarmed at the bus terminal in the nearby township of Kidapawan.

Regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico suggested the bombs could be retaliation by the rebels for the military offensive. Neither town had been occupied, but the guerrillas are active nearby. Police said a man arrested in connection with Thursday's explosion admitted to being a rebel, but guerrilla spokesman Eid Kabalu denied the accusation.

# AFP urges media: Allow our soldiers to die with dignity

By NIKKO DIZON, TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Taking offense at the showing of video of a dying Marine on a GMA 7 newscast, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has appealed to the media to allow its soldiers "to die with dignity."

"Every soldier is as human as you are. When wounded, we also suffer the pain. Sometimes we agonize. We would like to remember [our soldiers] for their heroism and sacrifice and not the indignities of the suffering when dying," Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, acting chief of the AFP Command Center, said in a press conference Thursday at Camp Aguinaldo military general headquarters.

Segovia said he had not seen the video of the dying Marine Cpl. Angelo Abeto that aired over GMA 7 but he had been told about it.

He said it struck a chord because he himself was wounded when a bullet nearly pierced his heart in a 1995 encounter with bank robbers.

"I wouldn't want anyone taking a video of me agonizing in pain," Segovia said.

The 30-year-old Abeto was hit by mortar shrapnel in the head and back during a 10-hour fire fight with guerillas from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. The guerrillas tried to take over the town on Aug. 11 in protest over the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

### Bleeding for 4 hours

A GMA 7 news team led by reporter Jiggy Manicad was able to capture on video Abeto bleeding for four hours at a Marine detachment. The corporal was begging to be evacuated while his fellow Marines urged him to hang on.

Instead of a UH-1H Huey, an American-owned helicopter was dispatched to evacuate Abeto, three other wounded Marines and a militiaman.

Military officials explained that a Huey and an MG-520 were dispatched to evacuate the wounded soldiers but thick clouds on the way to Tipo-Tipo prompted the pilots to abort the mission and return to the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Lamitan.

## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### Student kidnapped in Lanao Norte

**KAPATAGAN, Lanao del Norte**—Police authorities confirmed Friday the abduction of a Grade 1 pupil by six armed here on August 8, exactly a week after the incident took place. Senior Superintendent Linog Bagul, Lanao del Norte police director, said a news blackout was imposed when the incident happened so as not to compromise the safety of the victim. Bagul said the six-year old child of a prominent family here was on his way to the school with his nanny when he was abducted around 6:30 a.m. "The suspects brought the victim to the hinterlands of Salvador and Sapad leaving the Tamaraw FX they used as getaway behicle in Barangay (village) Mamaanun in Sapad," he said. Lyndon Calica, provincial information officer, said the kidnappers have asked P10 million for the liberty of the victim. (PDI)

### Couple killed; boy hurt in Bogo robbery

A couple was killed while their 10-year-old grandson suffered minor wounds when a man broke into their house on Wednesday evening in barangay Odlot, Bogo City, northern Cebu. Rodolfo, 68, and Adelaida Prias, 83, were hacked in the head and body. Their grandson was hit in the back of the neck but was able to run out of the house. PO3 Alan Dosdos, chief investigator of the Bogo City police, said the motive of the attack could be robbery because the money and jewelry of the victims were missing. The couple had just sold a cow before the incident, the police said. "Maybe the culprit was after the proceeds of the cow," said Dosdos in Cebuano. The police said that it was possible that the victims knew the culprit because their grandson was also attacked. (PDI)

### Suspect in student's slay nabbed

**MANILA, Philippines**—A text message sent to the wrong person led to the arrest of the suspect in the killing last year of a medical student in Quezon City. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Nestor Mantaring said Edgardo Catacutan, 22, of 149 Milagros St., San Juan City, is facing robbery with homicide charges filed at the QC Regional Trial Court for his alleged involvement in the crime. Now detained at the NBI jail, Catacutan is suspected of brutally slaying Alexander Chua Ngo, 35, a freshman medical student of the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center, after robbing the victim. SAU chief Angelito Magno said their initial clue was an empty text message from Ngo's cell phone that was sent to the victim's sister the day the body was discovered. Ngo was stabbed 25 times on Sept. 24, 2007 in his Araneta Avenue apartment by an unidentified visitor.

# Palace anti-graft drive netted 126 execs in 7 years—PAGC

By TONETTE OREJAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**SAN FERNANDO**—Malacañang's anti-graft drive over the past seven years has netted 126 out of some 1,600 presidential appointees, the chief of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has reported.

"These are not small fry," PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman told some 200 Central Luzon officials gathered here on Tuesday for a joint meeting of the Regional Development Council, Regional Peace and Order Council and Regional Disaster Coordination Council.

De Guzman said the PAGC's ax fell on two undersecretaries, six assistant secretaries, seven chairs of government corporations, five officials of state colleges and universities, 10 administrators, one deputy administrator, three commissioners, two assistant commissioners, 48 regional directors, three general managers, one assistant general manager, eight assistant directors, 12 board directors, five prosecutors, three heads of school divisions, and five non-presidential appointees who were found to have conspired in the commission of graft.

She did not give out names but added that 72 of those officials were dismissed, at least 25 were suspended, eight reprimanded and 21 forfeited their salaries and benefits because they were pinpointed as accessories in the misuse of public funds.

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# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Francis Magalona confirms leukemia

**MANILA, Philippines** (INQUIRER.net)—Actor-host and rapper Francis Magalona has taken an indefinite leave of absence from the noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga" after confirming that he has leukemia but assured his friends and fans that he would return.

In a text message read on air Thursday by co-host and comedian Vic Sotto, Magalona said he was preparing for his upcoming treatment and expressed confidence that he would recover.

Magalona, son of former matinee idols, the late Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran, described his situation as a "trial" and asked for "understanding."

"With the help of God, watch out for my return," said Magalona.

"Di ko lang kayo miss, love ko kayong lahat [I not only miss you, but I love all of you too]," said Magalona

Actor-host and rapper Francis Magalona

The full message read:

"Sa lahat ng mga dabarkads ko dito sa Eat Bulaga miss ko na kayong lahat. Araw-araw, magkakasama tayo at kayo'y naging second family ko na. Pati na rin ang lahat ng mga viewers sa mga bahay at sa studio. Ngayon, meron akong isang pagsubok na dapat daanan at ang hiling ko lang ay pangunawa at suporta. I have been diagnosed with leukemia and I am preparing for my treatment. Sa tulong ng Panginoon, kakayanin ko poi to. Abangan nyo ang aking pagbabalik. Di ko lang kayo miss, lab ko kayo lahat. [To all my friends in 'Eat Bulaga,' I miss you all. As I spend each day with you, I consider you all, my colleagues on the set and viewers, like a second family to me. I need to face this big challenge and request for your understanding and support. With the help of God, I know I can face this. Please wait for my return. I don't only miss you but also love you all.]

Magalona, one of the country's leading rap musicians and popular TV host, said in a previous interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer that he did not want his condition turned into a "media circus" and would rather keep his ongoing battle with the disease "private."

## Reuniting Reb, Lotlot and Nadia

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—What a delight it was to see my long lost bro Dranreb Belleza at his birthday bash last Thursday at the Conspiracy Café. It was like a "That's Entertainment" conspiracy, with former members Nadia Montenegro, Lotlot and Ramon Christopher around.

Reb has been away for so long. He is a true citizen of the world. "Artists have to keep traveling," said Reb. "I've had exhibits in New York and am now working on a docu about where I've been."

Nadia has fully recovered from the recent scandal she got embroiled in. "I'm busy organizing celeb golf tournaments abroad and selling jewelry," said Nadj. In spite of all the intrigues that have come her way, Nadj's relationship with Boy Asistio remains rock-solid. "Happy kami having mini-parties at home every night."

I kept teasing estranged couple Lot and Monching if they still know each other. "We have joint custody of our four kids though they stay with him," Lot explained. "But they sleep at my place anytime. Mon and I consult each other with all decisions about our kids."

Is she happier now that she's single? "I could be happier. But this is better than being stuck in a relationship after you've exhausted all means to make it work pero wala pa din. I live with the consequences. That's where paninindigan comes in."

I found it so sweet when Reb asked Lot if she wanted to bring some cake home and she told him to give the cake to Monching instead so he can let their kids taste it.

Reb, Nadj, Lot and I saw each other grow up. In the crazy show biz world we move in, it's good to know that after all these years, we can still turn to each other to keep our sanity intact.

### Playboy cover

Miriam Quiambao felt the need for a change so she finally agreed to pose for the cover of Playboy. "I want to break through and celebrate my moving forward," Miriam exclaimed.

Her sensual yet classy cover shot would surely lure more admirers. Is she ready for a new relationship? "I am happily single and dating. I believe I'll know when the right person and the right time to be in a relationship arrives."

Are sexy movies next on her agenda? "I'm craving for creativity and want to shed my unexpressed emotions through acting. I prefer powerful characters with depth. I wouldn't mind doing a Lara Croft either."

This Ms Universe (1st runner-up)/Ms. Playboy's got the whole world as her playground.

### New love

Former basketball star Benjie Paras is done with dribbling his heart around. He's now happy with his charming wife Ly Diomampo.

"Tinanggap niya ako and my two kids (with actress Jackie Forster) — no questions asked," says Benj. "In God's time, we will have our own kids. Ly stopped working as a teacher to take care of me and my kids. Ako na lang ang student niya. Sometimes she corrects my grammar (laughs)."

Ly is star material. Isn't she gonna join show biz? "There were offers but she prefers a quiet life. She's done an TV ad for a shampoo with Maricel Soriano." How has Ly changed his definition of love after his turbulent past? "She's six years younger than me. We're in our 30s. Graduate na ako sa young girls. Sakit ng ulo 'yon. With Ly, secured na ako. Last year, I forgot my birthday. Pinaalala nya sa akin."

Benj has finally dunked his heart for the winning shot.

### Going strong

Paolo Contis and Isabel Oli's two years and seven months relationship is going strong. "Look! It's me shirtless on her cell's wallpaper. Proud siya talaga na ganda ng katawan ko," exclaims Pao. His phone has Isabel's pic on it, too. "Pero yung niece ko with her sa pic ang naka two-piece (laughs)."

He probably wants to keep her sexy poses for his eyes only.

PERSONAL FINANCE

## Good investing for beginners

*Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money , a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: I'm new to this investing game, having invested in a mutual fund only last year. There are a lot of things I want to learn and get into and I'm excited. What does it take to be good at investing? – Archie**

Answer: The world of investing may seem complex, but it can be figured out. Many men and women have made their fortunes by investing well, and foremost among them is Warren Buffet, one of the world's richest men.

Contrary to what some people think, one does not need to start out rich to do well in investing. You don't have to be a taipan or to have oodles of cash lying around to be an investor. As you have taken that first step with your mutual fund shares, you have seen how easy it could be to get into investing. In fact, anyone who can open a savings bank account, or take out a time deposit, or invest in a mutual fund or unit investment trust fund for even the minimum investment amount is already an investor. The problem now is how to make your money (your investments) grow.

Just like a plant that needs sunshine, water, and good soil, your investments need attention too for them to grow. You as the cultivator need to have the right attitude too. Here are five sure ways to be a good investor:

1

Invest in what you know. There are many kinds of investments and each kind comes in different names. Add to that the plethora of banks and financial companies advertising their products, and it's easy to get lost in all that information. Don't be taken in by "Act now before it's too late!" messages. Learn all that you can about an investment; study it from different angles. If you feel that you understand how it works and you're comfortable with the risks involved, that's the only time you should consider investing.

Among the investments out there are the following:

a. Savings accounts—This is the safest form of investment. Your cash will be safe in the bank's hands, and in return, they will give you a market-based interest rate, which now hovers in the 0.75 percent to 1.0 percent per annum range. As you can see, for the low risk involved, you will only get a low rate of return. (By the way, by law, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation insures deposits up to P250,000 per depositor.) But you can deposit and withdraw anytime.

b. Time deposits—By holding your money for a longer time (e.g., 30 days, 90 days, 360 days, or even 5 years), banks can give you a higher rate of return for your cash deposit. The yield is also market-based, and may range from 2.0 percent to 7.0 percent per annum. To get the full interest income, you have to keep your money with the bank for the agreed term; otherwise, if you pre-terminate (encash your time deposit earlier than maturity date), you will have to pay a fee and earn lower interest. Time deposits are safe, but yield is also low, although a little higher than that offered by savings accounts.

c. Bonds—These are IOUs issued by a government or a corporation. When you buy a bond, you in fact lend money to the bond issuer, and in return, you will get a regular fixed interest income over the period of the term. The money you put in will be repaid to you in full when the term expires. Bonds require a higher amount of investment, that is why mutual funds and unit investment trust funds investing in bonds are more attractive to the beginning investor. The risk is higher than that of bank deposits, but the potential rate of return is higher too.

d. Stocks or Equities—By buying shares of stock of companies, you become a part owner. Stocks are traded daily in the stock market, and thus fluctuate in prices every day. You can have high possible returns on stocks, but the risk of losing is also high when the market is down. There are also mutual funds and unit investment trust funds investing in stocks or equities, which may be a better choice than directly investing in one company's stocks. Diversifying can spread out your risk.

e. Money market—Short-term commercial papers maturing in one year or less constitute the money market. The risk is lower than stocks and bonds, and so is the yield. But again, you may potentially earn more in the money market than in bank deposits. There are also mutual funds and unit investment trust funds solely investing in the money market.

f. Real estate—Property has always been attractive as an investment to a lot of people. But there is also the risk of the value of your property going down for one reason or another. It may also take a while to appreciate or to sell when you need to.

g. Art and jewelry—These assets can also be regarded as investments as they appreciate over time. However, these are illiquid and may be hard to turn into cash when you need the money.

2

Don't follow the herd. Some people panic at rumors of a bank run, so they rush to the bank to take out all their deposits the minute they hear of such a rumor. In the same way, investors have also panicked when the stock market is down or when they hear of bad news.

Before following what everyone else is doing, stop and think first. What is really happening? Find out what would happen if you take a certain course of action or not. Think independently.

3

Focus on the business, not the stock. If you go into stock market investing, you may be tempted to monitor stock prices every day or even every hour. It is a given that stock prices will fluctuate daily. What's important is to focus on the business behind the stock. Are the fundamentals good? Is it a well-run business? Does it have the potential to grow? Where will it be in the next 10 years? The answers to these questions will help you gauge if a business is worth investing; don't just base your decisions on stock prices.

4

Think long term. Rome was not built in a day. Building wealth does not happen overnight, or over five years, even. Invest with the attitude of holding assets for the long term so you will have enough to fund your retirement and meet your other financial goals. If you don't touch your investments for a long time, the money will keep on growing.

5

Sit back and relax. Investing is really exciting as many things happen every day. But just because you can make a quick buck selling off your stocks today as you already have made a one-peso gain per share doesn't mean it's the right move. Trading often will set you back with administrative charges and taxes. Besides, holding your investments for the long term may potentially give you even more yield over the years. Who would not want to live purely on the income from one's investment in the future? Ultimately though, when to sell is your own choice. Just make sure it is an informed one.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

# Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

## In exchange for what?

Much of the odium generated by the controversy around the Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain—controversial mainly for its content and for the lack of consultation that characterized its crafting—has fallen, justifiably, on the head of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But the Moro Islamic Liberation Front also shares part of the blame.

After the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order to stop the scheduled signing of the Memorandum of Agreement in Kuala Lumpur, MILF officials declared the delay "purely an internal problem of the government" and insisted that the MOA was in fact already signed and binding. "Our official position is that the agreement on ancestral domain has been signed, so it's a done deal," said Ghadzali Jaafar, the MILF's vice chair for political affairs.

This was an altogether unrealistic and even mentally dishonest statement. It (belatedly) deemed the signing ceremony brokered by Malaysia merely symbolic, an expensive afterthought. It sought to invest more meaning in the "initialing" of the document than that preparatory procedure could bear. Not least, in its refusal to accept the true source of the government's mandate to negotiate, it disrespected the position of the peace panel the MILF was negotiating with.

As a result, the MILF's unfortunate stance consolidated public cynicism about the controversial memorandum. To many people, the rebels reacted to the temporary restraining order as though they had pulled a fast one ("nakaisa," in street talk)—and now could not bear the thought that the advantage they had won for themselves may only be temporary.

The MILF's even more unfortunate decision to occupy portions of some towns in North Cotabato ahead of the signing generated public antipathy. It also raised grave doubts about the rebel group's commitment to peace. The fact that such confusion exists stamps a giant question mark on the MILF's ability to commit to any peace agreement. If they can't, what's the use of talking peace?

The MOA, as it stands, offers the MILF extraordinary (and rankly unconstitutional) concessions, including a new political theory ("associative character") to justify the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity's greater autonomy, and the privilege of establishing "foreign missions," a privilege explicitly disallowed in the Organic Act that created the BJE's predecessor, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. What did the government's peace panel win in exchange?

Only the idea, not the certainty, of peace. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

## Identity, federalism and the BJE

**By ANNA SU**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In the aftermath of the American invasion of Iraq five years ago, nation-builders were confronted with a dilemma long felt by multicultural societies elsewhere: When it comes to managing national and religious diversity, does one integrate or accommodate? As it turned out, the identity differences among Iraqis, both ethnic and religious, were too resilient to be integrated, and thus, in 2005, the federal democratic Republic of Iraq was born.

We may find ourselves facing a similar conundrum when it comes to finding a solution to the decades-old Moro rebellion. One of the primary characteristics of this rebellion is the assertion of a separate identity. As with most modern societies, Philippine laws and institutions were created presupposing a certain degree of homogeneity of the society they purport to bind. This ignores a legitimate demand for recognition of cultural and religious difference.

A commitment to diversity is essential in any state that claims to be democratic and republican. A particular identity, religious or otherwise, provides an important context for meaningful self and group choices as the Moro people chart their own future. To insist on homogeneity when there is none, on integration rather than accommodation, is to disregard an important source of dignity and autonomy for the affected communities.

It appears that the core issue is to find a lasting solution to the Bangsamoro problem, which as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front put as their talking point, means "establishing a system of life and governance suitable and acceptable to the Bangsamoro people."

Whatever this system is, it will definitely be beyond the contours of the present Constitution. The framers of the 1987 Constitution obviously intended a unitary state. So where do we begin?

Any realistic solution will be a compromise between two extremes: that of absolute unitary sovereignty and independent statehood. What appears to be left in the middle (which I believe to be most appropriate) has already been proposed elsewhere: a federacy arrangement with the envisioned Moro state as the sole federal territory, while the status quo remains in all other territories and provinces.

This is the same setup followed by Kurdistan in Iraq. And the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) envisioned in the Memorandum of Agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) seems to be an important step in that direction. To assuage the fears of those who think that Charter change may be a prelude to something unforeseen and sinister, a surgical constitutional amendment that will change only those provisions needed to effect the desired change is possible, as Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. espoused in his column last February.

The bottom line is that the Moro problem requires a constitutional answer. And though the procedure on how to amend the Constitution must still comply with its present provisions, the substance of any proposal need not be "constitutional" in the sense that we can certainly suggest outside-the-constitutional-box solutions. A lot of the provisions in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) may seem like "undeliverable" since it entails constitutional changes, a hard feat to achieve in this country. But considering that these changes will be subject to a later plebiscite and maybe some of the MOA's terms can be renegotiated, no matter what the outcome is, it is important that we do not stubbornly insist that we remain unitary in the face of durable and resilient identity and cultural differences.

Most of the opposition to the MOA on ancestral domain seems to stem from fear of the unknown should the MILF take control over the negotiated territories, given the magnitude of the authority sought to be transferred. But we can still try to find reasons to be hopeful. The MOA's Terms of Reference mention "dar-ul-mua'hada" and "dar-ul-sulh." These are terms originating from classical Islamic thought on war and peace. Dar-ul-sulh refers to a place where Muslims do not rule but live in peace and are permitted to practice their religion.

By making these terms as a point of reference, it can be construed that although the BJE would have its own laws governing the specified territory, individual rights can still be deemed protected under the federal constitution. In the final analysis, we are still a democracy and the people will always have the final say regarding what direction our country should take.

To be sure, the establishment of a federal system will not translate to peace overnight. Long-drawn conflicts have a multitude of reasons for continuing to simmer. At the end of the day, the efficacy of any institution boils down to the people who make it work. Hence, what I would suggest is a paradigm shift in the way we understand possible solutions to the conflict, by coming up with solutions outside the existing constitutional structure, and in the way we understand religious traditions. The alternative is to preserve a constricted set of options, and enjoy mere pockets of peace in a sea of war.

Muslim Filipinos need not choose between the state and the "umma." They can be both believers and citizens at the same time. The rest of the Filipino nation must give them the opportunity to do so.

*Anna Su is a doctoral candidate in Islamic and constitutional law at the Harvard Law School.*

## Hold the line for peace

**Glimpses**
**By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO**
INQUIRER.NET

It is like watching a tragedy unfold before our very eyes. It is not even the issue of ancestral domain, federalism needing Charter Change to happen or the extension of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration under any setup. All these are bad enough when control and power drive motives more than the wellbeing of people. What is truly horrifying is the slide back to religious and cultural prejudice, a major setback for the oneness of Filipinos and the advancement of human consciousness.

Eight years ago, the then-president of the Philippines ordered an attack on Muslim enclaves in the Central Mindanao region after he was twitted by kidnappings of foreign tourists by terrorists, on islands situated far away. It was a vengeful reaction directed not at the enemy of the moment but at a people considered by Christians as the enemy of history. War against Muslims in the Philippines is a war that cannot be won by government. It cannot be won by the Muslims, either. War between Muslims and Christians makes losers of us all. It also shows how stupid we are, how easily manipulated, how Filipinos of different faiths fight for crumbs while vested interests pocket our patrimony.

The United States is a vested interest. China is a vested interest. The Muslim world, especially our neighbors, is a vested interest. In the Philippines are many more with vested interests, and it is not difficult to understand why a small country is the object of vested interests. By being pinpointed as one of the richest if not the richest country in biodiversity, the Philippines is the most blessed by Creation. For people who believe in a Creator, it can be said that the Philippines is a clear favorite.

The spectacular biodiversity found in the Philippines is not a secret. Much of the country's minerals, much of its forests and much of its people have been exploited by the rich and powerful, by kings, bishops and the merchants of the world. Such is not the fate only of the Philippines. Greed and the twisted sense of power and control have moved around the globe several times over, looking for victims, finding them and killing, raping and enslaving them, and, of course, looting their natural treasuries.

It is almost incidental that the Spaniards got ahead of the British, the Dutch, the Americans and the Japanese. Philippine history, then, has to name Spain as the first successful colonizer, the first to use force to extract the wealth and the submission of the natives of our islands. Considering the way that Europe was circumnavigating the undiscovered world of Asia at that time, and the strategic position of our motherland, it would have been impossible to avoid landing on one of our more than 7,000 islands.

And that is our country's next greatest value: that it is strategically located in a region that promises to be the center of development and opportunity in the decades to come. For superpower America, especially, the Philippines is not only the best option it has to be in, but more importantly it may be the only option. Asia is China; and Asia is Muslim. Both China and Islam make the United States uncomfortable. Confucianism and Islam are not basic in the belief system of America, and in that of the whole Western world, in fact. For the less adventurous in the traditionally dominant West, the possibility of China as a superpower and Islam as an emerging global influence can cause nightmares.

Well, this nightmare is here for Filipinos, who will be in the eye of the storm. Both Christian and Muslim Filipinos have not grown much in the past four centuries. Our colonial past was not as successful in developing our productive capacities as much as it succeeded in making our foreign conquerors pleased with controlling and exploiting us. We have had three great nations as our masters—all by force, of course—and they all lacked any intent to empower us. Their manifest will simply to use us did next to nothing in making us grow as a people. We were left with a conditioned propensity to bicker and betray one another—a patented virus from centuries of divide-and-rule governance.

Today, with what is happening in Mindanao, there is no clearer testimony of just how weak we are, of how abused we are, of how divided we are. There is no leadership that elicits respect and loyalty; only a deep-seated natural love for the motherland keeps us together—and precariously at that. It is not the ancestral domain issue that makes us turn against one another, it is the state of distrust that has evolved among Christians and Muslims. It is ironic that Filipinos think more kindly of other nations than their fellow Filipinos.

Despite a pathetic lack of effort from national leaderships to reunite Christians and Muslims, to rekindle the bonds of a common blood and a common habitat, many individuals and groups have never given up and keep trying to transcend historical prejudice and bigotry. These efforts, from nongovernmental organizations and members of the clergies of both faiths, have been the counterforce to an aggressive virus called divisiveness. Laudable these may be, and effective as well up to a certain point, they are no match for the deep pool of animosity that vested interests can stoke into active life. Thankfully, even senior military officers today do not believe that war is a higher option than peace.

Filipinos have no option except one: to rise above history and take destiny into our own hands. We must hold the line for peace. We must set aside feelings of distrust and not allow ourselves to continue being puppets and be irreparably damaged as one people from one motherland. We may not be powerful enough to change the course of history of Asia, but we are powerful enough to say no to hate and violence, to say no to prejudice and bigotry.

Hold the line for peace. This must be our daily prayer. It is not the current issues that harm us the most; it is the manipulation of others, including many of our own compromised leaders, that does. Christians are not the enemies of Muslims, and Muslims are not the enemies of Christians. We are one people, one blood, created by one God. Let us not be blind to the beautiful and divine intent of creation: that we are one. Against all odds, against all manipulation, against all provocation, let us hold the line for peace.

# Maharlika – Samu't Sari

**ADVOCACY WORK**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) leaders Ronnie Doca, Rabby Syed, Jerry Custodio, Honorio Cambronero and Rene Reyes gather for a photo after a meeting with the congressional staffers Tuesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Jaime Vergara delivers his remarks during the welcome rally at the American Memorial Park late Monday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Former Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) president Irene Tantiado delivers her remarks while Coalition acting president Rabby Syed listens during the welcome rally at the American Memorial Park late Monday afternoon.

Jose Lorenzo Reyes, 5, sits beside a banner during the Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) rally to welcome a delegation of congressional staffers at the American Memorial Park late Monday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**MAX'S 5th BIRTHDAY**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maxine Rabago, center with eyeglasses, celebrated her 5th birthday on Aug. 11 together with her K-5 classmates at Eucon International School. Greetings come from your Papa Mark, Mama Melanie, and Baby Mikaela.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) members and officials gather near the entrance of the Hyatt Regency to welcome a delegation of congressional staffers late Monday afternoon.

Youngstyle

# At Beijing Olympics, it's game on

By FRED BOWEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

On Like almost everyone else, I am spending lots of time watching the Summer Olympics. Here are some thoughts, great and small, about the world's biggest sporting event.

■ Did you see the Opening Ceremonies? They were so awesome they make a Super Bowl halftime show look like a kid's backyard party.

■ I think the coolest part of the Opening Ceremonies was that Lopez Lomong carried the American flag. Lomong survived the horrors of the killings in the Darfur section of the African country of Sudan before he came to the United States and became a world-class runner. By choosing Lomong, the American athletes showed they understand that people from around the world come to this country for freedom and to do what they do best.

■ It's impressive to see all the different countries represented in the Opening Ceremonies. What I noticed is that athletes come in all shapes and sizes. So no matter how big or small you are, there is probably an Olympic sport you can play.

AP

China's gymnast Yang Wei performs on the rings during the mens' gymnastics individual all-around finals at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008.

■ Yao Ming, the 7-foot-6 basketball center for the NBA's Houston Rockets and Chinese national team, looks big even among the tallest athletes. I don't think Yao will stop the United States from winning gold. It looks like a team on a mission.

■ President Bush was the first U.S. president to go to an Olympic Games not held in the United States. There's no doubt the president is a big sports fan; he was at lots of Olympic events.

■ Swimming is not my favorite sport, so I thought there were too many swimming races during the first week. With so many races, the television commentators say silly things. During one breaststroke race, the announcer said the American swimmer was "constantly moving forward." Well, duh!

■ I may not like swimming, but I love the relays. Some are unbelievably close. Imagine what it would be like to train for years and lose a medal by a tenth or a hundredth of a second. The U.S. team beat the French in that fabulous 4x100-meter freestyle relay by eight hundredths of a second.

■ The gymnasts are amazing. Every gymnastics competition, I yell out, "Wow! Did you see that?" Come to think of it, I say that whenever I watch the Games.

*Bowen writes sports novels for kids.*

## OLYMPICS FACTS

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Neither Africa nor South America has hosted an Olympics, but countries on both continents are bidding for future Games. The United States tops the list of country hosts, with four times each for the Summer and Winter Games.

■■■

Beijing time is 12 hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time in the United States. At 1 p.m. on Friday in Washington, for example, it is 1 a.m. Saturday in Beijing.

■■■

The first recorded Olympic Games was held in Olympia, Greece, in 776 B.C., and consisted of only one race of 210 yards, which was won by a cook. Only men competed in the ancient Games, and they did so naked.

■■■

The Olympic medals that will be given out in Beijing will use jade for the first time. The jade, or "bi," is inscribed with a dragon pattern and will be in the shape of a circle on all gold, silver and bronze medals.

# Olympic teams are all over the map

By FRED BOWEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Almost everyone is watching the Summer Olympics in China. I have a suggestion about a different way you and your family and friends should watch the world's biggest sports event. But first, a story from American history.

When the United States was fighting in World War II during the 1940s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt would often speak to the nation by radio; that was before many people had televisions. Roosevelt would explain what was happening in the military actions all around the world. Before those radio talks, the president would encourage people to buy a map of the world so they could follow along with his speech. When Roosevelt explained that American soldiers were landing in North Africa or Normandy, listeners would locate those faraway places on their maps. Stores across America sold out of maps before the president's talks.

That's how you should watch the Summer Olympics: Get a map! When you hear the name of a country, find it on your map. Notice what other countries are around it and how far away it is from the United States. Make locating countries on a map into your own Olympic event. Your family and friends can keep a list of the countries they find. The person who locates the most countries on his or her map wins the gold medal—in geography.

Chances are, the winner will have a long list of countries. Although many of the medal winners will be from the big countries, including China, Russia and the United States, athletes from such smaller countries as Bahrain, Cyprus, Kazakhstan and Zimbabwe are expected to contend for medals. Almost every country in the world sends athletes to the Olympics.

Of course, American television reports mostly on American athletes. So get a map of the United States, too. When they mention a swimmer or runner's home town, find it on your map. You might have trouble finding Brad Vering's. The American Greco-Roman wrestler grew up in Howells, Neb., a town northwest of Omaha with just over 600 residents. That's fewer folks than in some local elementary schools.

If you can't find the athlete's home town, you can at least find the state. The American team has athletes who were born in 47 of the 50 states. The three states that have not produced an Olympic athlete for the 2008 team are Montana, North Dakota and West Virginia. California, the state with the biggest population, produced the most Olympians this year.

The Summer Olympics is a time when the world comes together in the name of sports. It's also a great time to learn something about the world.

# The 'Bird's Nest'

A police officer guards the "Bird's Nest" prior to the opening ceremony outside the National Stadium during Beijing Olympics in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 8, 2008.

AP

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

It looks to many people like the world's biggest bird's nest. To others, it looks like a saddle or a bowl. There are also some who think it looks like a toilet seat!

It is China's massive new $500 million National Stadium, the main venue for the 2008 Olympic Games, and it was built with the latest "green technology" to wow the world.

Anybody watching the Olympics is seeing a lot of the stadium, which has been nicknamed the "Bird's Nest" because that's how it looked to the Chinese when architects unveiled the design five years ago.

About 42,000 tons of steel pieces that look like twigs and branches form the eye-catching frame, which swirls over and around the 64-acre arena.

It can seat 91,000 people. President Bush and other heads of state were there Friday last week during the Olympics' Opening Ceremony. During the Games itself, it is home to track and field events and the men's soccer final.

The Chinese are proud to host the Games, looking at the event as a way to show the world how much the country has changed in the past 20 years.

Here are some ways the builders tried to be environmentally friendly:

■ The stadium floor is covered by a huge grassy field, and under it are pipes that can absorb heat and cold in different seasons. This advanced technology will create natural heating and air conditioning.

■ Rainwater will be collected through a drainage system, and it will be used, among other places, in restrooms.

# Summer book club: Individuality shines in 'Stargirl'

By JENNIFER FREY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**"Stargirl,"** by Jerry Spinelli
**Ages 12 and up**

Susan Julia Caraway — better known as Stargirl — is the new girl in 10th grade at Mica Area High School in Arizona. Not only is she new to this school, but until now she's been home-schooled, so this is her first experience with school life.

But instead of trying to fit in and act and dress like everyone else, Stargirl revels in being quirky. She wears funky clothes, including prairie dresses and kimonos. She carries around a ukulele (which she likes to play at lunch) and a pet rat named Cinnamon. She has a strange habit of singing "Happy Birthday" to people she doesn't know.

At first, Stargirl's unique personality wins her fans — as well as the adoration of an 11th-grade boy name Leo, the story's narrator. But the popularity doesn't last, and soon her odd ways leave her counting only Leo and one other person as friends.

Eventually, Stargirl tries to make herself "normal" to earn acceptance, but she learns she's never going to be happy if she isn't true to herself.

THE WASHINGTON POST

In the KidsPost Summer Book Club selection "Stargirl," by Jerry Spinelli, Susan Julia Caraway's unique personality wins her fans, as well as the adoration of Leo, the story's narrator. But the popularity doesn't last.

## Reading with the stars

By JENNIFER FREY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Emily Osment is a 16-year-old actress from Los Angeles who is best known for her role as Lilly Truscott, Miley Cyrus' best friend on the TV show "Hannah Montana."

Emily has appeared in films since 1999. Her screen credits include the second and third movies in the "Spy Kids" series; "Soccer Mom," which is coming to theaters this year; and "Hannah Montana: The Movie," due out next year.

Emily comes from an acting family: Her older brother is actor Haley Joel Osment.

Her book club recommendation is a popular novel written in 2000 by an award-winning writer of books for children and young adults. A movie version also is in the works.

Here is what Emily had to say about Jerry Spinelli's "Stargirl":

"I read it in sixth grade, and I really loved it. It's inspirational. It's a quirky, cute story that focuses around a girl who doesn't fit in at school, and she just changes the whole food chain at her school.

"The book gave me a totally different perspective on my school and how people are in certain groups and why they're like that.

"Kids need to know right off the bat that being popular is not the most important thing in your life. Kids need to hear that these days because we're growing up so fast. ...

"('Stargirl') does remind me a little of (Hannah Montana) because Miley and Lilly are just complete dorks. They're the dorkiest kids in school. That's why (the show) appeals to so many kids. They're not perfect, and that's what makes it a cool story."

## Scanning the shelves

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

If you enjoy "Stargirl" (or have already read it), try the sequel that came out last year. "Love, Stargirl" advances the story by one year and moves the setting to Pennsylvania. The story is written as a letter from Stargirl to Leo back in Arizona. A new cast of offbeat characters keeps the pace lively.

Colorful characters also abound in "Lawn Boy" by Gary Paulsen. A 12-year-old boy in Eden Prairie, Minn., rides an old lawnmower to new heights — becoming a financial whiz kid with thousands of dollars to invest. You'll enjoy the ride, too. (For ages 9 to 12.)

# 'My Side of the Mountain': Into the wild

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The KidsPost Summer Book Club recommendation this week is from TV naturalist Jeff Corwin.

**"My Side of the Mountain"**
**By Jean Craighead George**
**Ages 9 to 12**

Many kids think about running away from home, but few actually do it. Young Sam Gribley is different. He runs and runs and runs—to New York's Catskill Mountains.

Armed with only a penknife, a ball of cord, some flint and steel, and the clothes he is wearing, Sam makes a new home in a hollowed-out tree. He tames a falcon, which he names Frightful, and befriends a weasel he calls the Baron.

Over time, he learns the skills to survive: how to build a fire, whittle fishhooks out of tree branches, kill and smoke game, make clothing out of deerskin and even how to make pancakes from acorns.

But surviving in the wilderness on his own is challenging. He must battle hunters, blizzards and loneliness to survive. His story of independence and adventure is spellbinding.

## Reading with the stars: Jeff Corwin

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Jeff Corwin, best known as the host of Animal Planet's "The Jeff Corwin Experience," has worked to help endangered species and ecosystems since he was a teen-ager in Massachusetts, where he still lives with his wife and daughter. His TV show is broadcast in more than 70 countries.

When not in the field, Corwin lectures on wildlife, ecology and conservation to audiences across the United States.

"'My Side of the Mountain' was a great inspiration to me," Corwin says, "and a great escape."

He says he kept coming back to the book, a Newbery Honor winner, as he got older. That's not unusual for fans of Jean Craighead George, who has written more than 80 books and received more than 20 literary awards (including the Newbery Medal for "Julie of the Wolves").

Much of her writing reflects Corwin's own passion to preserve and protect the environment. Because of their shared interests, it was perhaps only a matter of time before their paths crossed.

Says Corwin: "Later in my life, when I came to know her and we became friends, it was a nice moment when I could tell her what that book meant to me."

## Scanning the shelves

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Thirty years after the publication of "My Side of the Mountain," Jean Craighead George rewarded her fans with an exciting sequel, "On the Far Side of the Mountain." (Asked why it took so long, she said her mother found sequels "trashy," so she avoided them.) Nearly 10 years after that, prompted by a young reader asking the Washington-born author whatever happened to the falcon in the books, George completed the series with "Frightful's Mountain."

As the story continues, Sam's life is disrupted when his sister, Alice, who has joined him, disappears, and his peregrine falcon, Frightful, is captured by a conservation officer. The final book is written from the view of the falcon as she sets out on her own.

## Why do hyenas laugh?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you ever hear a spotted hyena making a sound, you might think it is laughing hysterically. It isn't.

When a hyena is excited or scared, it lets out a noise that is a combination of a strange howl and a cluck, and that can sound like wild, crazy laughter.

There are several living species of the predatory animal native to Africa and Asia, including the best known: the spotted hyena, which is also known as the laughing hyena.

Hyenas make as many as 14 sounds that are produced in different conditions, according to new research by three professors at the University of California at Berkeley.

Hyenas are scavengers, living on the rotting remains of dead animals. They often prefer to eat the leftovers of what other animals have killed.

But they will sometimes hunt live animals, often by attacking in packs. According to National Geographic, they are skilled hunters that can kill big animals, such as wildebeests and antelopes, as well as small animals, such as birds, lizards, snakes and insects.

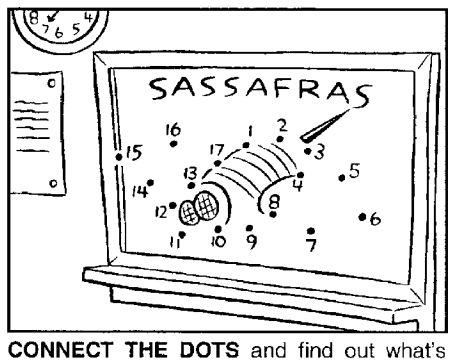
Hyenas have even been blamed for some human deaths, and they have been known to enter villages and attack livestock and sleeping people.

Hyenas are nocturnal, meaning that they sleep during the day and prowl for food at night.

Because of what they eat, their breath stinks. And with scruffy fur and hind legs much shorter than their forelegs, they often look like they are skulking around, with their heads hanging low.

Hyenas have powerful bodies and can grow to be more than six feet long, including a foot-long tail. They have sharp eyesight and hearing at night, and they can run fast for long distances, without getting tired.

*Source: "The Handy Answer Book for Kids (and Parents)," by Judy Galens and Nancy Pear*

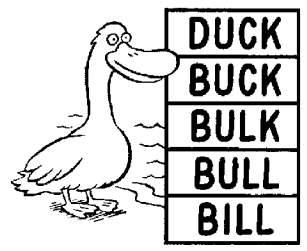



**CONNECT THE DOTS** and find out what's more wonderful than a talking dog!

Answer: A spelling bee.

# Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend




**A DUCKY SET OF PUZZLES!**
In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed DUCK to BILL in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. BLUE to SMOG
2. GOOD to WILL
3. WALK to RIDE
4. TIDE to LAND
5. CAPE to HERO

Answers:
1. BLUE, SLUE, SLUG, SLOG, SMOG.
2. GOOD, GOLD, GILD, GILL, WILL.
3. WALK, WALE, WILE, WIDE, RIDE.
4. TIDE, TINE, LINE, LANE, LAND.
5. CAPE, CARE, HARE, HERE, HERO.

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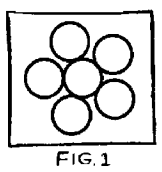


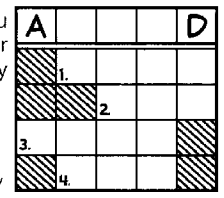
FIG. 1

**ANOTHER BETCHA!** Bet your friends they can't pick up six plastic cups with one hand. No stacking allowed. The secret is to arrange the cups in a circle (Fig. 1). Next, place your fingers in the five outer cups and squeeze (Fig. 2). You can now pick up all six cups.

FIG. 2

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. To make repairs.
2. A result, an outcome.
3. A statement of approval.
4. Pieces used in chess.




Answers: 1. Mend. 2. End. 3. Amen. 4. Men. Mystery word: Amend.

# Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ If you're one of those folks who loves to strum an imaginary guitar along with the music, here's an invention you need to know about: Scientists in Australia have created a T-shirt just for air guitarists. The shirt has motion sensors that relay the wearer's movements to a computer, allowing these wanna-be musicians to play real music.

■ It is not known today which politician in 1974 made the following observation: "Solar energy is not something that is going to come in overnight." It also is not know if the play on words was intentional.

■ In the 1860s, there was actually legal currency printed in the United States with an image of Santa Claus on it. It was issued by Saint Nicholas National bank of New York City.

■ It's been projected that within the next 12 years, only 15 percent of the world's English-speaking population will be native speakers of the language.

■ Forbes magazine has ranked the most expensive sports to participate in. You probably won't be surprised to learn that yacht racing, vintage auto racing and polo top the list.

■ It was about a year ago when people on a flight from Peru to New York got a bit of a surprise when they noticed that one of their fellow passengers had a small monkey peeking out from under his hat. Evidently, the man was trying to smuggle the primate into the United States.

■ Pulitzer Prize-winning writer John Steinbeck was a creature of habit. Every morning he sharpened exactly 24 pencils, and he wrote with each one until it was blunted. When he was out of sharp pencils, he was through writing for the day.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I believe I found the missing link between animal and civilized man. It is us."--Konrad Lorenz

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## MAGIC MAZE ● GRAZERS

Y Z W T Q Z N K I F C Z W U R
P M J E H A E E C Z X U S Q N
L J W I L D E B E E S T G E K
C Z A A X L L L R V K T R E C
P N P L J H E E T A C A Y P U
W M I V T R P Z N T P N L O B
I K T I G E H G A O A E C L R
B Z I X E W A U S G S C R E E
O N I H R R N P O M L I E T T
S E S R O H T J I G E D B N A
D B A O L A F F U B R E T A W

**Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antelope | Elephant | Kangaroo | Water Buffalo |
| Bison | Gazelle | Rhino | Waterbuck |
| Cattle | Horses | Sheep | Wildebeest |
| Deer | Impala | Wapiti | |

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | x | | + | | 15 |
| + | | − | | + | |
| | x | | − | | 31 |
| ÷ | | x | | x | |
| | x | | + | | 17 |
| 3 | | 25 | | 14 | |

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

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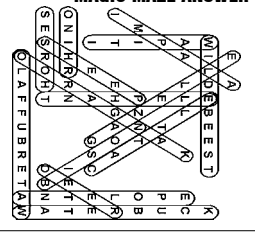
**MAGIC MAZE ANSWER**




**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 6 | + | 9 | x | 1 |
| | + | | − | | + |
| 31 | 1 | − | 4 | x | 8 |
| | x | | x | | ÷ |
| 17 | 2 | + | 5 | x | 3 |
| | 14 | | 25 | | 3 |

# Did guinea pig suffer heart attack or stroke?

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I had a 3-year-old guinea pig named "Rocky," and a few months ago he died. The way it happened was, first he was staring at our fish tank. Then all of a sudden he flipped over onto his back and started to shake. After he stopped shaking, he was breathing but he couldn't get up. Unfortunately at that time, we couldn't do much because it was a school day. When my father came home to check on him, he had died. What do you think happened to him?**

**-- Abigail O.**

DEAR ABIGAIL: I'm sorry to hear about your pet. While I can't be sure what went wrong with Rocky, I suspect that he either had a heart attack or a stroke.

Guinea pig expert Peter Gurney, author of numerous books, including "Piggy Potions" (Kingdom Books), and a Web site, "The A to Z of Guinea Pigs" [http://web.onetel.net.uk/~petergurney/atozmainpage.htm] describes heart attack symptoms as the guinea pig being too weak to stand, often lying flat on its side, giving "great heaving breaths" and having a weak and slow heartbeat.

A guinea pig that has suffered a stroke will usually be paralyzed down one side of its body, with its head tilted at an acute angle to its body, and its eyes may have rapid jerky movements.

The reason an owner should differentiate between the two is that, particularly in the case of a heart attack, the sooner the guinea pig gets emergency treatment the better chance it has of surviving.

It sounds like you were observant of your pet's behavior prior to his becoming ill. Guinea pigs can show few overt signs of deteriorating health. Owners must watch for symptoms like a loss of appetite (one of the biggest signs), weight loss of just a couple ounces, subtle changes in behavior or changes in the animal's coat and eyes. Any of these should warrant a call to the vet and a visit within 24 hours. Acute symptoms like Rocky's are emergencies, and the guinea pig should be taken in immediately.

■ ■ ■

*Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.*

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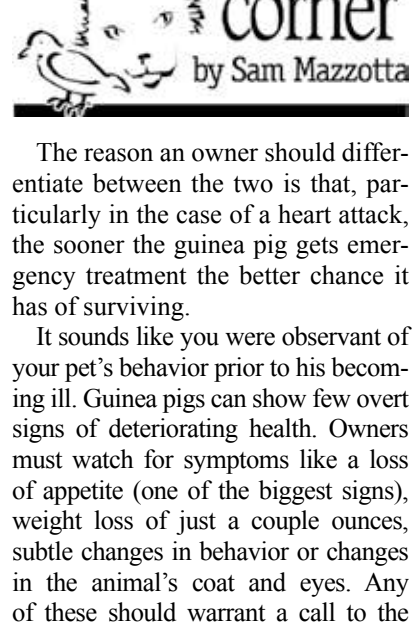
# Rock on!




Joel was the kind of preschool kid who was always weighted down with pebbles in his pockets and a favorite rock clenched in his fist. Dumping out the contents of his pockets on laundry day, I imagine his mom thought she had accumulated enough rocks to refill a quarry! But Joel's fascination with rocks wasn't a childhood phase. It turned into a passion. Now in his 20s, he spends every waking moment of his free time bouldering and rock-climbing at some of the most magnificent and challenging venues in the world.

If rock climbing is just a little too adventurous for you and your kids this summer, rock on with some of these outdoor "rock" activities you can enjoy on your vacation.

STACK 'EM.

Even if one of your kids is hesitant about going into a lake or the ocean, there's something for everyone at a beach. Once the traditional sand castle is constructed, set out for a rock hunt together, and look for flat rocks along the shoreline.

Stack your collection on a flat surface in such a way that the rocks balance and form a towerlike structure.

COLLECT 'EM

Before you drop money at a souvenir shop, keep in mind that some of the best "memory keepers" can be rocks. Choose a favorite rock from each place you visit and write the date and where it was found on the rock with a permanent marker or paint pen. When you return home, place them in a basket.

Relive your travels by choosing a rock now and then, and let your child be the "rock star" who gets to tell a story about that summer day.

Note: Please don't remove rocks from parks and nature preserves where visitors are requested to leave the surroundings undisturbed.

SHARE 'EM

If your family has a cabin or cottage others will visit or rent this summer, write "rock notes" to leave for them in appropriate locations on your property. Paint individual rocks with tips and discoveries they won't want to miss. For example:

--Bald eagle nesting across the inlet.

--Bear sighting at the dump

--Watch out for frogs on path to outhouse. They look like stones but they hop!

■ ■ ■

*Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.*

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# Life & Style

## An awkward love triangle: Kate, Leo and Sam Mendes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It was more than a little awkward for Kate Winslet to film sex scenes with Leonardo DiCaprio in front of husband Sam Mendes, who directed the stars in the upcoming drama "Revolutionary Road." "I just kept saying, 'This is too ... weird,'" Winslet tells Entertainment Weekly magazine. "And Leo was like, 'Oh, get over it.' And I'm going, 'Yeah, a little reminder: You're my best friend. He's my husband. This is a bit weird.'"

Mendes, who directed "American Beauty" and "Road to Perdition," says, "I will admit it was quite bizarre to direct my wife in how to make love. But it's difficult whether you're married to a person or not."

It's been 11 years since Winslet and DiCaprio co-starred in the Oscar-winning blockbuster "Titanic," and Winslet says a spark remains between them.

AP

In this image released by Paramount Vantage, Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and Kate Winslet are shown in a scene from, "Revolutionary Road."

"I hadn't realized how much my chemistry with him since 'Titanic' would still stick," says the 32-year-old actress. "It's great to discover we can just slip right into it, like muscle memory."

They play suburban couple Frank and April Wheeler in "Revolutionary Road," based on Richard Yates' 1961 novel. It is slated for release in December, just in time for Oscar consideration.

"We knew that if we were going to do something again, it had to be something big and emotional," Winslet says. "'Revolutionary Road' is so painful and beautiful to read, simply because of the brutality of the honesty that Frank and April end up experiencing together."

Winslet was eager to bring DiCaprio on board, and set up a sneaky way to do it: She arranged a meeting with the 33-year-old actor in March 2007, but sent Mendes in her place.

"Leo and I have such a history together and I couldn't imagine not being able to apply that to this story and these characters," she says. "So I played this very clever cat-and-mouse game to get my husband and then my best friend involved."

## Christian Bale is off the hook in assault case

**LONDON** (AP)—Christian Bale won't be charged in an alleged assault on his mother and sister, in part because they didn't want to press the matter but also for lack of sufficient evidence, prosecutors said Thursday.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service ordered police not to take any further action, saying there was insufficient evidence to make a conviction realistic.

The service said in a statement that it treats domestic incidents seriously, but feels it's important "that the views of complainants are also taken into account when making decisions in such cases."

Bale

Bale, who denies the allegation, said through his spokeswoman, Jennifer Allen, that he was relieved the issue had been settled. The actor "hopes to put the matter firmly behind him" and will be providing no further comment, Allen said in a statement released by Bale's lawyers.

His family had previously declined to comment, saying the issue was a personal matter.

British media had reported that Bale's mother and sister told police he assaulted them at his suite at the luxury Dorchester Hotel on July 20, a day before he attended the European premiere of his film "The Dark Knight." Bale has denied the accusation.

The Sun tabloid reported that police waited a day to arrest Bale so he could attend the film's premiere in London's Leicester Square. He was questioned for several hours at a police station before being released on bail.

The Wales-born actor first made a splash in 1987 as the child star of Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun." He has played dark and sometimes sinister roles in such films as "American Psycho," "The Machinist" and "Batman Begins."

In "The Dark Knight," Bale reprises the role of wealthy playboy Bruce Wayne and his crime-fighting alter-ego Batman, a brooding vigilante superhero still scarred by the murder of his parents.

Bale, 34, lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife, Sibi Blazic, and their young daughter.

## Poof! Next 'Harry Potter' flick moves to summer

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—It's summer school for Harry Potter.

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth installment in the blockbuster film franchise about boy wizard Harry, is moving from its planned Nov. 21 release to July 17, 2009, distributor Warner Bros. said Thursday.

The move was made to take advantage of an open weekend in Hollywood's busy summer season, said Alan Horn, Warner Bros. president and chief operating officer. The film had been on schedule, and the change was not due to any production snags, he said.

AP

In this image originally released by Warner Bros., Daniel Radcliff, portraying Harry Potter, right, is shown with Maggie Smith, who portrays Prof. Minerva McGonagall in a scene from the film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

"The picture is completely, absolutely, 100 percent on schedule, on time. There were no delays," Horn told The Associated Press. "I've seen the movie. It is fabulous. We would have been perfectly able to have it out in November."

The switch will mean a two-year lag between the film adaptations of books five and six in J.K. Rowling's fantasy series. But it will shorten fans' wait between "Half-Blood Prince" and the final two installments, which are being shot simultaneously next year.

Based on book seven, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the last two movies are due out in close order, in November 2010 and summer 2011. Horn said the later release of "Half-Blood Prince" will not affect the schedule for the final two movies.

Horn said the studio has had success with past summer "Harry Potter" releases, including the fifth movie, which was released in 2007 and became the second-highest grossing in the franchise.

The recent Writers Guild of America strike also had affected Hollywood's lineup in next summer, leaving a key date open for Warner to slot in "Half-Blood Prince," Horn said.

The July 17 release will be over the same weekend that Warner debuted this year's blockbuster "The Dark Knight," which had a record-breaking opening weekend and is on its way to $500 million domestically and the No. 2 spot on the all-time box-office charts behind "Titanic."

"Half-Blood Prince" finds Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) returning to his wizard classes with a clandestine assignment to root out dark secrets about the early years of his archenemy, the dark Lord Voldemort.

The film is directed by David Yates, who made the fifth movie and also is shooting the final two.

Last February, another big Hollywood film, Paramount's "Star Trek," was bumped from a December release to May 8, 2009. Paramount executives said that move also was intended to take advantage of an open weekend in the summer lineup.

## Jerry Lewis says gun in baggage was a gift

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Jerry Lewis said a gun found in his carry-on and confiscated by Las Vegas police at the airport last month was a gift from an engraver following Lewis' annual telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association—despite an earlier claim by his manager that the weapon was a prop.

"Oh, I had a gun in my carrying case, which was given to me by a marvelous, marvelous engraver," Lewis told "Entertainment Tonight." "Last year, at the telethon of '07, he presented me with this gorgeous gift. He presented it to me in the telethon office in '07. I put it in that traveling case, and I hadn't traveled since that telethon 'til that day."

Lewis said in a video posted Thursday on the entertainment news show's Web site that the gun had been sitting in his office for a year in an unused traveling case. Lewis said "a whole year flashed in front of me" when his road manager, Jeff Low, asked if he had a gun in his baggage at the Las Vegas airport before his flight to Detroit.

Lewis

"The case was sitting dormant in my office," Lewis said.

Following the incident last month, Lewis' manager, Claudia Marghilano, told The Associated Press that the handgun was a hollowed-out prop gun that Lewis sometimes twirls during his show. She said the gun couldn't fire and that Lewis didn't know the gun was in the bag along with other props.

When reached for comment by telephone Thursday, Marghilano said there was a prop gun in Lewis' baggage besides the handgun that was given to Lewis as a gift. Marghilano said she did not previously know about the gift and did not know which gun -the gift or the prop—police confiscated.

Las Vegas policeman Bill Cassell said on July 30 if the gun were merely a prop "it wouldn't be a weapon and we couldn't cite him for carrying a weapon." Cassell said Lewis was cited July 25 for carrying the unloaded concealed weapon at the Las Vegas airport.

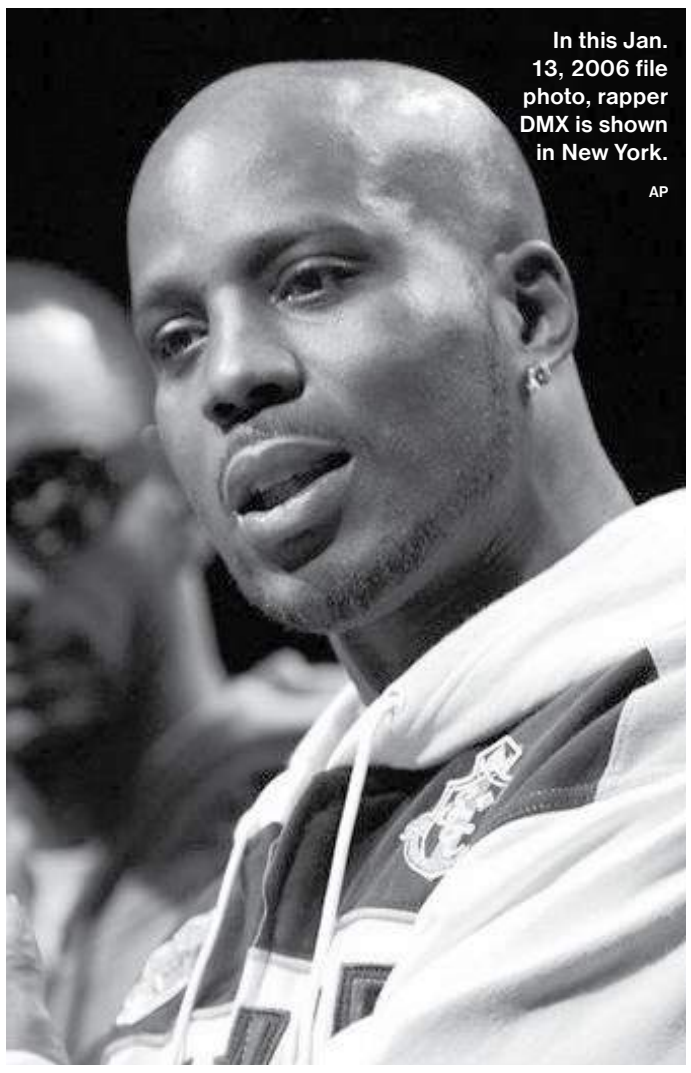
# DMX is arrested

**PHOENIX** (AP)—A lawyer for DMX says the rapper has been arrested in Miami on a warrant for failing to attend a Phoenix court hearing. Lawyer Charles Kozelka says DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, checked into a Miami hospital the day he was to appear in Phoenix and was planning on entering a rehab facility afterward.

Kozelka says the warrant stopped those plans, and that he had been trying to arrange for DMX to turn himself in at the airport.

A Phoenix judge issued the warrant for DMX on Tuesday after he didn't appear for a pretrial conference on four counts of possessing drug paraphernalia and one count of possession of marijuana.

The case is one of several Simmons is facing in Phoenix, including several animal cruelty and drug possession counts.



In this Jan. 13, 2006 file photo, rapper DMX is shown in New York.

AP

## Kid Rock will play 'All Summer Long' at VMAs

In this Nov. 18, 2007 file photo, singer Kid Rock arrives at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kid Rock is returning to the Video Music Awards for another hit performance—and this time it doesn't involve a fistfight with Tommy Lee.

The boisterous rocker is slated to perform "All Summer Long" off his platinum-selling CD "Rock 'N Roll Jesus." Though it was released nearly a year ago, it has surged on the charts and is currently one of the top five selling CDs.

Last year, Kid Rock wasn't a performer, but he was involved in one of the ceremony's most talked about moments when scuffled with Tommy Lee while they were sitting in the audience. Both were at one time married to Pamela Anderson, who was also in attendance. The fight was not shown on camera, but provided fodder for jokes from the likes of Diddy and Jamie Foxx.

Rock is the third act confirmed for the VMA's, to be held Sept. 7 in Los Angeles. Other performers are Lil Wayne and Jonas Brothers, though there is a possibility that Britney Spears—who's bleary kickoff performance at last year's VMA's became one of 2007's most talked about moments—may join them.

MTV told The Associated Press earlier this week they are in negotiations to have the star there in some capacity, and she's already taped two promotional ads for the show with host Russell Brand.

## Dailey & Vincent lead all bluegrass nominees with 10

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Dailey & Vincent lead all nominees for this year's International Bluegrass Music awards with 10, including for entertainer of the year. Although the group formed just last year, leaders Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent are both veterans. Dailey was a member of Doyle Lawson's group Quicksilver, and Vincent played in Ricky Skaggs' Kentucky Thunder.

Their other nominations include vocal group, emerging artist and album of the year. Dailey also received a nod for male vocalist, while Vincent did the same for bass player.

"When they mentioned our names for all the different categories, I was most proud of Jamie being nominated for male vocalist. I really thought he was deserving of that," Vincent said.

Dailey was equally complimentary of his musical partner: "He's one of the best bass players we've got in this business, and to finally see him get recognition after standing behind for all these years is just wonderful."

Del McCoury and Kathy Mattea announced the nominations Thursday at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Other leading nominees included Blue Highway, Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, and the Dan Tyminski Band—all of whom received six nominations apiece.

Tyminski, a longtime member of Alison Krauss' Union Station, released his second solo disc, "Wheels," in June. His nominations include male vocalist, an award he's won three times (2001-2003).

## Trump to buy McMahon's home, let him live there

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Donald Trump will soon be Ed McMahon's landlord.

Trump announced Thursday he would save the television personality's Beverly Hills mansion from foreclosure by buying it for an undisclosed amount and leasing it to McMahon.

The developer told the Los Angeles Times he doesn't know McMahon personally, but acted out of compassion because helping out "would be an honor."

McMahon, 85, who was Johnny Carson's sidekick on the "Tonight" show for three decades, has not worked for about 18 months because of a neck injury. He defaulted on $4.8 million in mortgage loans with Countrywide Financial Corp.

McMahon's spokesman, Howard Bragman, told The Associated Press that paperwork on the sale had not been completed but that McMahon was "very optimistic" the deal would go through.

"When I was at the Wharton School of Business I'd watch him every night," Trump told the Times. "How could this happen?"

McMahon bought the six-bedroom, five-bathroom, 7,000-square-foot house in January 1990. The home was listed at $4.6 million last weekend—down from a peak price of $7 million.

## Among Bernie Mac's last roles: Lion

**GLENDALE, Calif.** (AP)—In one of his final roles, Bernie Mac roars.

In the upcoming "Madagascar" sequel, the comedian and actor voices the lion Zuba, father of Ben Stiller's fey, city-loving lion Alex.

Mac

"He brought so much heart and soul," Jeffrey Katzenberg, head of DreamWorks Animation SKG, told The Associated Press on Wednesday after previewing footage from the film for reporters.

"It's just so hard, because we're still living with it every day, we're working with his creative contribution," Katzenberg told AP. "As we stand here today, there are animators who are animating."

Katzenberg said animation would continue for another month and additional production would take two months. The movie, titled "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," is set for release Nov. 7.

"It's been a real loss for us," Katzenberg said. "We were so proud of the work that he has done and the contribution that he's made. And one of the things is that he's never actually going to ever see what an amazing gift he gave to us."

Mac died Saturday in the Chicago area from complications due to pneumonia.

Others featured in the DreamWorks film include Chris Rock, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen and David Schwimmer. will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas collaborated with composer Hans Zimmer on original music.

## Teens contemplating suicide must be thrown a lifeline

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** A boy in the grade below me killed himself. I didn't know him very well. He was a 10th-grader and we spoke in passing.

I realize no words in this world can explain a tragedy like this. I can't get past it because I know so many teens think of suicide at one time or another. Is the teen suicide rate higher than ever?

What options are there for teens to avoid getting to this point? Talking to a trusted adult won't work if a young person can't find an adult to trust. What more can kids do when they or a close friend are considering suicide? Please help us out, Abby. I'm afraid my generation is killing itself—literally.

SOON-TO-BE SENIOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR SOON-TO-BE SENIOR: I'm sorry for the tragic loss of your schoolmate. While it may seem that the suicide rate today is higher than years ago, my experts tell me that this is not the case. What has increased is the degree to which it has been publicized in the media.**

**If a contemporary should confide in you that he or she is considering suicide, tell that person that you care and are concerned. Under no circumstances should you keep what was said a secret. Tell your parents, a teacher or a school counselor, who can see that your friend gets help. If you feel there is no adult you can trust, then pick up the phone and call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). You will be saving a life if you do.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Have you any advice for a woman who is married to a perpetual do-gooder? Every time someone asks for help, "Sam" feels he MUST. He's often gone three to five evenings a week after work, and at least once over the weekend. When Sam is home, he's so exhausted from all his activities and late nights that he just sleeps. (By the way, my husband is not the cheating type.)

When I point out that the kids and I need him as much or more than his "charity cases," he promises to cut back. Then he'll get another call for help and automatically says "yes."

If you have any suggestions, I'd love to hear them.

GOOD NEIGHBOR SAM'S WIFE

**DEAR WIFE: While helping others is a virtue, Sam has turned it into something less than noble because his priorities are scrambled. It appears you married someone so hungry for affirmation that he can't say no to anyone.**

**Spending time with you and the children should be higher on his list. It is time to ask your husband if his do-gooding isn't also a way of avoiding his responsibilities as a husband and father, because the family has been getting the short end of the stick.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Do you think it's rude for people to park their cars in front of the walkway to our house? My husband thinks I'm being a fussbudget. I say the walk should remain clear in case guests or visitors have mobility problems or are unloading something.

DONNA IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

**DEAR DONNA: Unless you are unloading something or have visitors with mobility problems, my advice is to lighten up, lest you be viewed as the neighborhood crank. If the situation changes, I'm sure your neighbors and/or their guests would be happy to move their cars to accommodate you.**

---

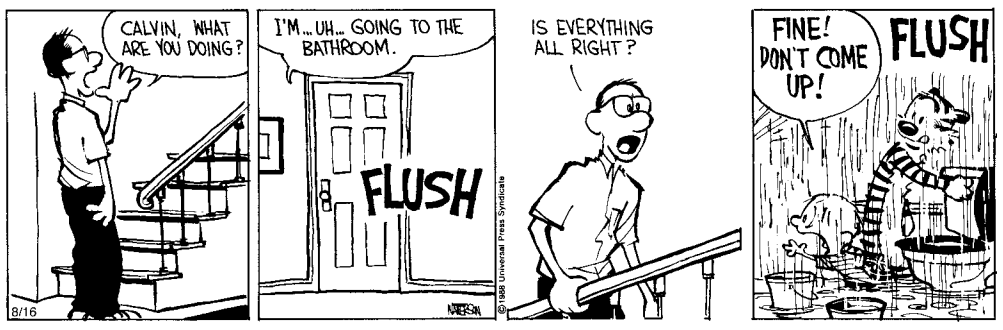
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson




## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS?!!
FOR PIZZA DELIVERY?!
THE POLICE ESCORT WAS EXTRA
PIZZA
JIM DAVIS 8-16
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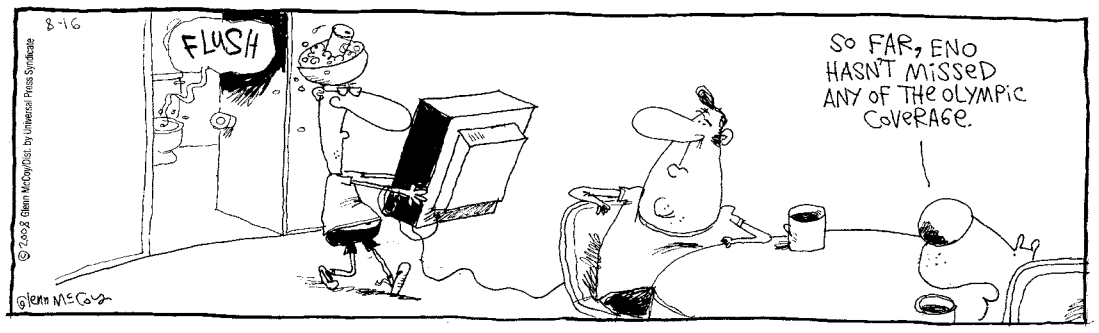
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


8-16
FLUSH
SO FAR, ENO HASN'T MISSED ANY OF THE OLYMPIC COVERAGE.
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Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Made up one's mind
6 Hide
11 Prioritization method
12 Wheel cover
14 Peter of Peter, Paul, & Mary
15 Peter of "Lawrence of Arabia"
16 Bake sale grp.
17 Epsom minerals
19 Afternoon get-together
20 Tittle
22 Agt.
23 Not even get close
24 Thin pancake
26 Golden
28 Scarlet
30 AAA job
31 Smites
35 Radar-screen images
39 Yuletide refrain
40 Has potential
42 Frosty's makeup
43 Son of Prince Valiant
44 Asked for money
46 Coloration
47 Peter of "Mission: Impossible"
49 Peter of Chicago
51 Literary comparison
52 Bordeaux variety
53 Howie Mandel's offerings
54 Pursuing

**DOWN**

1 Demosthenes, notably
2 Jack Sparrow, e.g.
3 Pitch
4 Hollywood clashers
5 Chemist's flask
6 Decathlon event
7 Disapproving utterances
8 Blood-group letters
9 Nova —
10 Least infirm
11 Serving to symbolize
13 Porridge ingredient
18 Grazing area
21 "Enchanted" time
23 Whimpers
25 "A mouse!"
27 Filch
29 Ends
31 Hose woes
32 Scorching
33 Change the title
34 Perched
36 Be intrinsic
37 19-Across host, perhaps
38 Eccrine gland secretion
41 Agave plant
44 War, to Gen. Sherman
45 Moolah
48 By way of
50 Tit for —

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| M | O | P | U | P | ■ | E | R | R | ■ | T | S | P |
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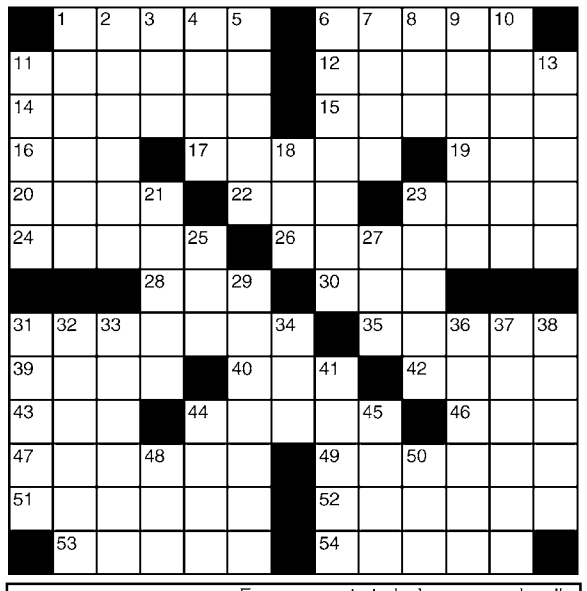
| D | O | E | R | ■ | L | Y | C | R | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | E | D | A | T | E | ■ | H | A | N | D | L | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | B | I | N | G | O | ■ | G | R | A | Y |
| R | A | M | I | S | ■ | A | R | M | ■ | E | W | E |
| A | L | E | E | ■ | P | R | E | E | N | S | ■ | ■ |
| B | L | E | S | S | E | D | ■ | T | A | S | E | R |
| B | E | T | ■ | P | O | E | ■ | E | V | E | R | Y |
| I | N | S | ■ | A | N | N | ■ | S | E | D | G | E |

Yesterday's answer 8-16



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Vanessa Carlton, 28; Emily Robison, 36; Angela Bassett, 50; James Cameron, 54

**Happy Birthday**: Don't let emotional madness lead to deception, uncertainty and hard times. Instead, focus on the positive and the creative. Professional opportunities are apparent if you show everyone what you have to offer. Don't be afraid to make a snap decision that can make a difference to your financial future. Trust your judgment. Your numbers are 9, 12, 23, 28, 33, 38

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Emotions will surface and the outpouring of good intentions will help you resolve issues that have been bothering you for some time. Address the past and the people who have caused you grief and then put things behind you so you can move forward. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Don't offer your time, money or anything else for that matter when you should be focusing on the ones you love and what you can do to make your home life better. Your personal efforts will pay off if you are honest, intent and willing to compromise. ✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your desire to have fun overpower you when you have everything to gain by working hard and putting a little extra into the mix. What you put in will bring you the riches and recognition you are looking for. ✪✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get sidetracked by someone trying to persuade you to do things that will benefit him or her, not you. Stick to your own game plan. A partnership will play an important role in your decisions and should enrich your bond. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Getting upset or angry will cause you to lose ground, putting you in a vulnerable position. Just say what you think and act on what you see others do. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Give yourself a break. You deserve to go out, have fun and connect with people you enjoy. It's your day to pamper yourself. Love and romance are on the rise and a special evening should be in the works. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will mesmerize, captivate and win over anyone you deal with today. Plan to promote and present your thoughts, ideas and intentions. The feedback you get will add to the outcome of whatever you try to master. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get all wigged out about what's going on in your personal life. Remain calm and let things develop naturally. Sometimes the truth hurts but it also allows you to move on and make your life better. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Use whatever it takes to get what you want but don't expect everyone to follow you. Sudden changes regarding relationships can be expected. Problems with a neighbor should be left alone for now. ✪✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't try to hide the facts, especially where legalities, settlements, money and health are concerned. By opening up and discussing what's likely to unfold, you will get better feedback and an honest response. Money is heading your way. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let your feelings be known. Despite the response you get, you will know that you have done your best. A change of heart on someone's part will open your eyes to what this person really wants and expects from you. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Hidden matters may cloud your vision, causing you to overstep your bounds and take on someone or something you shouldn't. Clarify anything that you don't understand before making a commitment. Prepare to let go of things that aren't working for you. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are a hard worker, a solution finder and a practical thinker. You are distinct in your way of doing things. You aren't afraid of change and often instigate it.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

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| | | | 6 | 8 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | 4 | | | 5 | 3 | |
| 2 | | 4 | | 3 | | 1 | | 7 |
| | 6 | 1 | | | 8 | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 3 | 7 | 9 | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | 8 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/15

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ACCESSIBLE HOTEL ROOMS — **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | M | H | C | A | E | R | D | E | T | S | I | S | S | A |
| C | O | M | F | O | R | T | O | (B) | (E) | (D) | (S) | L | R | E |
| S | D | D | O | O | R | H | F | O | R | M | I | T | L | H |
| E | E | S | I | L | H | T | C | U | M | A | O | F | E | A |
| Z | R | U | H | R | A | T | I | N | R | S | I | I | V | N |
| I | N | I | T | D | R | W | D | X | E | N | T | L | E | D |
| S | S | T | A | E | S | O | S | I | E | B | I | E | L | L |
| R | E | E | B | I | P | E | C | C | W | R | D | S | P | E |
| E | I | S | N | T | R | N | N | A | A | S | R | P | H | S |
| W | T | K | I | U | E | A | R | I | B | R | A | M | P | S |
| O | I | O | T | G | R | E | S | E | E | I | D | A | R | A |
| H | N | A | R | T | A | E | E | R | A | C | N | L | I | F |
| S | E | E | N | S | D | E | T | P | A | D | A | S | C | E |
| F | M | E | A | S | U | R | E | M | E | N | T | P | E | T |
| E | A | P | R | O | V | I | S | I | O | N | S | L | S | Y |

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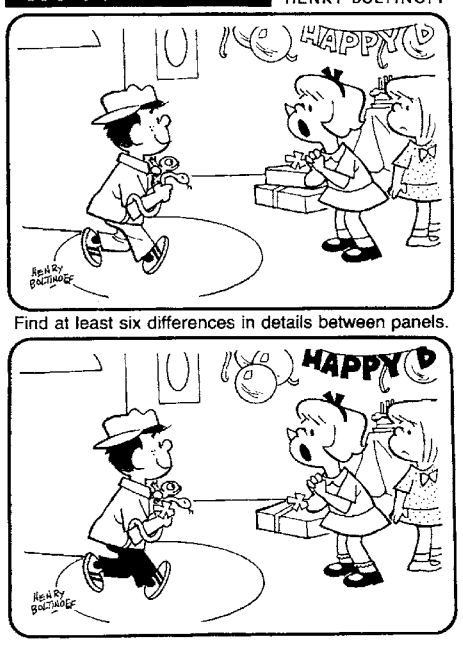
Adapted, Amenities, Areas, Assisted, Bath, Beds, Bench, Braille, Cabins, Care, Comfort, Corridor, Door, Emergencies, Entrance, Exit, Features, Furnish, Handles, Lamps, Laws, Level, Lift, Measurement, Modern, Needs, Options, Prices, Provisions, Rails, Raised, Ramps, Reach, Rooms, Safety, Seats, Showers, Sink, Sizes, Space, Standard, Steps, Suites, Width

**Yesterday's Answer: Advertise**

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword: Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6858. Order online at upuzzles.com.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Banner letters are black. 2. Balloon has been added. 3. Boy's pants are dark. 4. Socks have ruffles. 5. One present is missing. 6. Bow has been added to snake.

## Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| P | W | Y | I | T | R | P | O | S | A | O | H | S |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| K | H | F | U | R | P | R | E | A | E | A | F | V |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| A | S | I | E | R | R | E | P | I | M | U | R | S |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| C | C | E | T | O | T | T | T | W | O | I | A | U |
| 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| A | C | N | E | Y | D | R | R | N | D | O | F | A |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| W | A | G | U | M | S | I | E | R | O | E | T | E |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| N | H | C | E | R | W | U | E | I | L | S | L | E |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## Super Crossword

CD COLLECTION

**ACROSS**

1 Pinza or Chaliapin
5 Basilica feature
8 Page
12 — pants
17 Relative of PDQ
18 Crude cartel
20 Comic Radner
21 It's down in the mouth
22 Connecticut senator
25 Cotonou's country
26 Swiss miss?
27 Rustic sight
28 Villainous Luthor
30 Bit
31 "Nightmare" street
33 "Pelleas et Melisande" composer
38 Intrude
43 About
44 Sky light?
45 August one
46 Watchband
48 Say "Hey!"
50 Drummer Buddy
53 Cold-war accord
55 Scrabble piece
56 Ring site?
58 Hero's horse
60 Actress Slezak
62 Stopped in one's tracks
66 Singer Elvis
68 Scandinavian
71 Handy bit of Latin
72 — Jima
73 Window part
74 "— Eyes" ('79 hit)
76 "New Look" couturier
80 Cambodia's Lon —
81 Articulated
83 Gridiron position
84 Art deco name
85 Clementi composition
87 Fit neatly
89 Philharmonic section
91 He had a gilt complex
94 Pennsylvania sect
95 Velvet finish
97 Tragic fate
100 They squeak for themselves
101 Vino center
102 Crucifix
105 Photo book
107 Trams transport it
108 Subordinate Claus?
110 Football's Aikman
112 Architect, for instance
114 "The Descent of Man" author
120 Fumble
121 Empty (of)
122 Wagner's "— fliegende Holländer"
123 Sneaks peeks
126 Carries
130 Removes the cork
133 1974 Tony-winning actress
137 "Killer Tomatoes" sound
138 Fiddled (with)
139 Screenwriter James
140 Talbot or Naidi
141 Like the kitchen sink
142 Risked a ticket
143 Scrape by, with "out"
144 Action figure

**DOWN**

1 Big name in Baroque
2 '68 US Open winner
3 Amritsar attire
4 Miss Muffet's nemesis
5 Word with cheese or roast
6 Homer's field
7 Bawled
8 Cover
9 "Evil Woman" rockers
10 Confuse
11 Lost luster
12 Wheel part
13 "Hi, Horace!"
14 Puniest pups
15 Inventor Howe
16 Actor Patinkin
19 Stylish
20 Bathed in butter
23 Corn holders
24 Actress Joyce
29 Makes one's mark
32 Swimmer Biondi
34 Multi-purpose vehicle
35 Lamebrain
36 Pop
37 Joins forces
38 Different
39 Around the corner
40 Covent Garden conductor
41 Dernier —
42 Grapefruit serving
47 Shimon of Israel
49 Clear
51 "The Power of Love" singer
52 Opening remark?
54 Tyson stat
57 Crockett colleague
59 TV's "My Living —"
61 Eyebrow shape
63 Aquatic mammal
64 Former African nation
65 Bring bliss
67 Santa's problem
69 Mets' milieu
70 Singer Maresca
74 Fountain order
75 Luncheonette lure
77 Gentleman of leisure?
78 "Pagliacci" soprano
79 Pirate's quaff
82 Flatt or Pearson
86 Indistinct
88 Tenor Georges
90 Auctioneer's cry
92 43,560 square feet
93 Cassandra, for one
96 Part of NB
98 UK honor
99 Ruminate
103 Legendary Bruin
104 Used a divining rod
106 High spirits
109 Nourished
111 Surprised shout
113 Terra firma
114 Misfortune
115 Hefty herbivore
116 Writer Rogers St. Johns
117 Factions
118 Sag
119 1492 vessel
124 Brink
125 Pursue
127 The Chipmunks, e.g.
128 Ferrara first family
129 Galaxy glitterer
131 Short snooze
132 Hog heaven?
134 Caustic substance
135 Rock's — Zeppelin
136 Diminutive



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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. PSYCHOLOGY: If someone suffers from mysophobia, what is he or she afraid of?
2. COMICS: What is the name of Garfield's canine companion and nemesis?
3. MOVIES: What was the charge debated by the jury in the movie "12 Angry Men."
4. GOVERNMENT: What did the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution do?
5. SCIENCE: What does an oologist study?
6. QUOTATIONS: Who said, "Little strokes fell great oaks."
7. MEDICINE: What is the purpose of eating more food containing Omega-3 fatty acids?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest river located entirely in one country?
9. MUSIC: Who composed music for the first three Harry Potter movies?
10. TRAVEL: Australia spans how many different time zones?

**Answers**

1. Dirt
2. Odie
3. Murder
4. Limited presidents to two terms
5. Birds' eggs
6. Benjamin Franklin
7. Improved cardiovascular health
8. Yangtze in China
9. John Williams
10. Three

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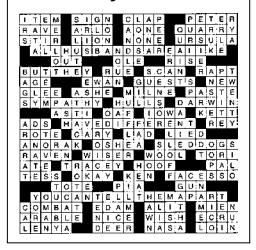
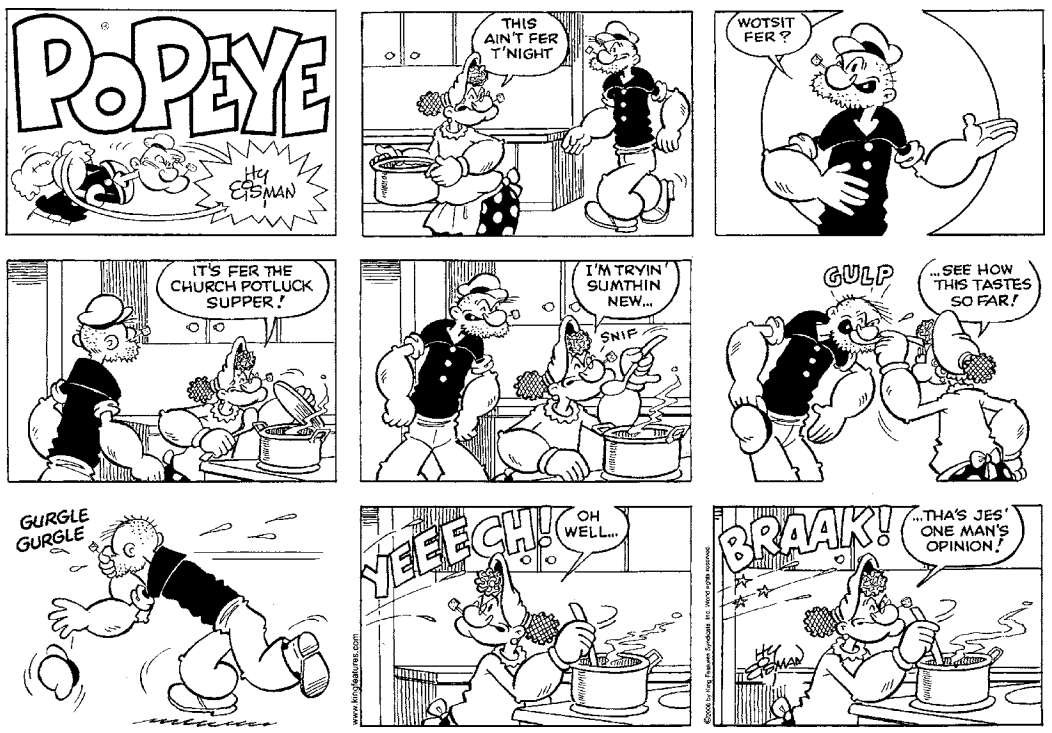
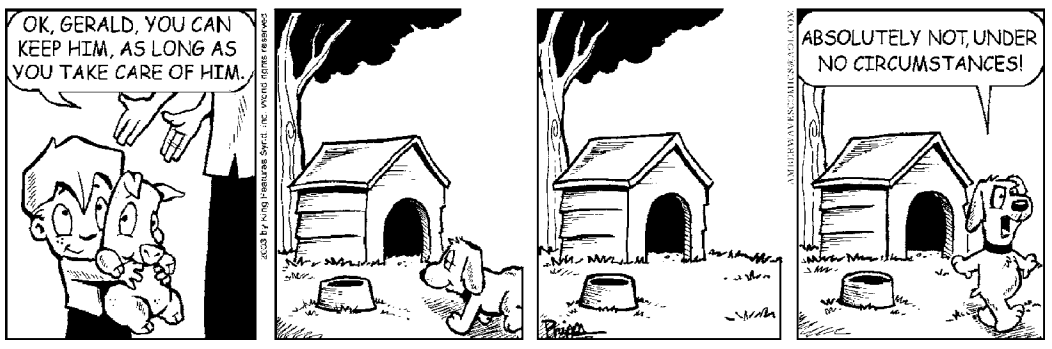
### Saturday's Answers



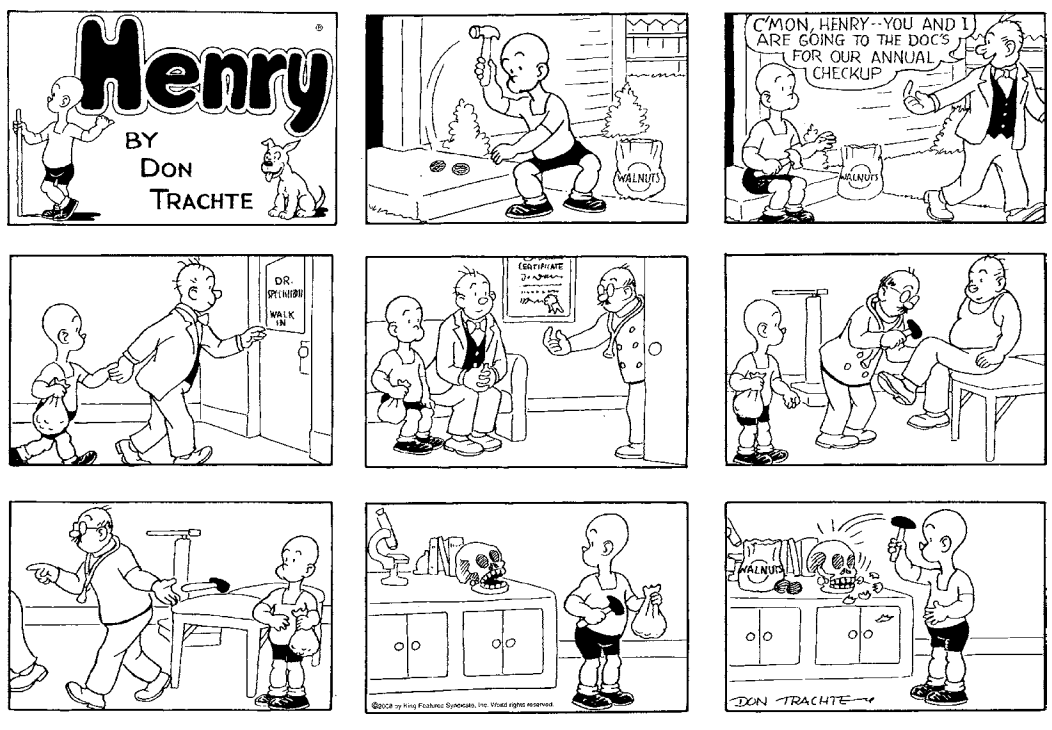



Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps




The Spats by Jeff Pickering

MARK TRAIL
WRENS ARE RESTLESS, PERKY LITTLE BIRDS WITH LOUD SONGS AND RASPY, SCOLDING CRIES
SOME 59 SPECIES INHABIT BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN HEMISPHERES
THE FRIENDLY LITTLE WRENS WILL BUILD THEIR NESTS IN JUST ABOUT ANY SPOT- IN BUSHES, MAILBOXES, TIN CANS, ETC... WE RECENTLY HAD A FAMILY OF THEM NESTING ON THE CABIN PORCH AT LOST FOREST!
THE 'NURSERY' WAS A SMALL WOVEN BASKET, HANGING ON THE WALL WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE PORCH ROCKING CHAIRS
PAYING LITTLE ATTENTION TO NEARBY HUMANS, THE ADULT BIRDS MADE HUNDREDS OF FEEDING TRIPS EACH DAY...
AND BEING DAINTY LITTLE HOUSEKEEPERS, THEY REPEATEDLY REMOVED THE DROPPINGS OF THE YOUNG FROM THE NEST...
JACK ELROD
DISCARDING THE FECAL SAC ON THE WAY OUT TO CAPTURE MORE INSECTS FOR THEIR BABIES


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
C'MON, HENRY--YOU AND I ARE GOING TO THE DOC'S FOR OUR ANNUAL CHECKUP
WALNUTS
DR. SPLENDID WALK IN
DON TRACHTE

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | **$25** |
| • 5-Liner | **$35** |
| • 3-Liner with picture | **$45** |
| • 5-Liner with picture | **$55** |

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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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### FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principa
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PA
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

# Four hit consecutive homers as White Sox beat Royals

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Jim Thome, Paul Konerko, Alexei Ramirez and Juan Uribe hit consecutive homers in the sixth inning and tied a major league record as the Chicago White Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 9-2 to complete a three-game sweep on Thursday.

Thome's two-out, three-run shot, was his 25th this season and 532nd of his career. Konerko followed and Ramirez hit his before Robinson Tejeda came on to pitch. Uribe, homerless in his 107 previous at-bats, greeted him with his fourth of the year to make it 9-2.

Chicago set a club record with the four straight homers, and it was the sixth time it had occurred in major league history. The Boston Red Sox were the last team to accomplish the feat, doing it against the New York Yankees in April 2007.

Carlos Quentin extended a much more painful streak in the first inning, when he was hit by a pitch from Kyle Davies (5-4). Quentin has been plunked in his last six games and a major league-high 20 times this year.

AP

Chicago White Sox designated hitter Jim Thome, right, celebrates his three-run home run with Carlos Quentin during the sixth inning of their baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in Chicago, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008.

### Rays 7, Athletics 6, 12 innings

At Oakland, California, reliever Brad Ziegler's record scoreless streak was ended, and Carlos Pena homered leading off the 12th to give Tampa Bay the win.

Ziegler started his career by not allowing a run in 39 consecutive shutout innings for Oakland to tie a 59-year-old major league record for relievers. Until BJ Upton hit a RBI double to give the Rays a 5-4 lead in the ninth.

Pena hit his 23rd homer of the season off Santiago Casilla (2-1) and Dioner Navarro added a RBI single as Tampa Bay moved to 26 games over .500 for the first time in franchise history.

Cliff Floyd walked four times and scored four runs for Tampa Bay, which hasn't lost a series since the All-Star break.

The A's lost their ninth consecutive series for the first time since 1979.

### Tigers 5, Blue Jays 1

At Detroit, Edgar Renteria hit a tiebreaking two-run double in Detroit's five-run eighth inning and the Tigers avoided a four-game sweep against Toronto.

Armando Galarraga (11-4) pitched eight sharp innings for Detroit, allowing a run and six hits.

The Tigers struggled against Jesse Litsch, who tossed seven shutout innings and handed a 1-0 lead over to the Blue Jays bullpen. Litsch allowed four hits and walked two.

Renteria hit a liner into left-center field to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead. Brandon Inge followed with a two-run single.

### Red Sox 10, Rangers 0

At Boston, David Ortiz hit a three-run homer to highlight a nine-run second, and Boston used a second big inning in three games against Texas to complete a three-game sweep.

Daisuke Matsuzaka (14-2) allowed six hits in seven innings for the Red Sox, who scored 37 runs in the series and won their fourth straight to remain three games behind AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Texas starter Tommy Hunter (0-2), making his third career start, was charged with all nine runs in 1 2-3 innings.

### Orioles 11, Indians 6

At Cleveland, Lou Montanez hit a tiebreaking double during an eight-run eighth inning, and Baltimore beat Cleveland for a split in their four-game series.

The Orioles sent 13 men to bat in the eighth, getting six hits and three walks in their largest inning of the season. Baltimore has scored 55 runs in its last seven games.

Fernando Cabrera (1-1) worked a perfect seventh for his first win since April 2007 when he was with Cleveland. He signed with Baltimore last August after being released by the Indians.

### Astros 7, Giants 4

At Houston, Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to help the Houston Astros down the San Francisco Giants for their eighth straight win.

It gave Houston, which has won 16 of 20, a four-game sweep of the Giants.

With the score tied in the eighth, Miguel Tejada led off with a single against reliever Keiichi Yabu (3-5). The Giants then replaced Yabu with Alex Hinshaw, who allowed Berkman's 25th home run of the year.

### Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 2

At Denver, Chris Snyder and Chris Burke hit consecutive homers in a five-run fifth inning, leading Dan Haren and Arizona over Colorado.

Haren (13-6) pitched eight sharp innings, giving up one run while striking out nine. He also had two hits and scored a run.

Matt Holliday hit his 23rd home run for the Rockies, who went 3-7 on their homestand. Arizona won two of three in the series, dropping the defending NL champion Rockies nine games behind in the West division.

### Padres 3, Brewers 2

At San Diego, Jake Peavy outpitched Ben Sheets with Vseven strong innings for San Diego to snap Milwaukee's eight-game winning streak.

Peavy (9-8) allowed one run and four hits in a matchup of the past two starters for the NL in the All-Star game. Peavy, the reigning Cy Young Award winner, struck out eight and lowered his ERA to 2.61 to take over the NL lead from San Francisco's Tim Lincecum (2.67).

San Diego reached Sheets (11-6) for three runs in the seventh inning after the Brewers scored in the top half against Peavy. Pinch-hitter Byron Myrow's sacrifice fly gave the Padres a 2-1 lead.

Trevor Hoffman allowed Mike Cameron's 20th homer in the ninth before finishing for career save No. 550, and his 26th in 29 chances this season.

### Cubs 11, Braves 7

At Atlanta, a brief benches-clearing skirmish and only the second cycle in Atlanta history couldn't stop Chicago from completing its first season sweep of the Braves.

Aramis Ramirez and Alfonso Soriano homered to help Chicago to a sweep of the six-game series for the first time since the rivalry between the franchises began in 1876.

Mark Kotsay went 5-for-5 and joined Albert Hall as the only Atlanta players to single, double, triple and homer in the same game.

Tom Glavine (2-4) got the loss in his first start since June 10.

Ted Lilly hit Atlanta's Yunel Escobar with a pitch in the sixth inning to start a brief altercation. Escobar was upset as he pointed and yelled at Lilly. Escobar had to be restrained by plate umpire C.B. Bucknor, but other players showed a little emotion as they walked onto the field from both benches and bullpens. There were no punches or ejections.

### Mets 9, Nationals 3

At Washington, Brian Schneider homered against his former team again and Carlos Delgado also went deep to help New York finish a three-game sweep of Washington.

Oliver Perez (9-7) handed a 5-3 lead over to the Mets' beleaguered bullpen in the seventh, and Joe Smith, Duaner Sanchez and Aaron Heilman combined to throw 2 1-3 scoreless innings. Perez allowed six hits, walked three and struck out eight.

The win gave the Mets a half-game lead in the NL East over Philadelphia, which was at Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Washington has lost seven straight.

Schneider, the former Nationals catcher, hit a two-run drive off Collin Balester (2-5) in the fifth to give the Mets a 4-0 lead. It was his first homer since May 14, also against Washington.

### Cardinals 3, Marlins 0

At Miami, Ryan Ludwick drove in three runs and Todd Wellemeyer pitched three-hit ball into the eighth inning as St. Louis blanked Florida.

Ludwick hit an RBI double in the third and a two-run homer in the seventh.

The Cardinals headed for a weekend series in Cincinnati having won three of four from the Marlins, who dropped off the pace in the NL East.

### Reds 3, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, rookie Chris Dickerson had three hits for Cincinnati and broke a sixth-inning tie with a two-out RBI double in a win over Pittsburgh.

Javier Valentin homered for the Reds, who took two of three from the Pirates and won for the fourth time in 19 games.

Dickerson, who made his major league debut on Tuesday, tripled and scored on a squeeze play in the ninth.

Johnny Cueto (8-11), who was winless in his past six starts, allowed one run and four hits in five innings. Francisco Cordero, one of five Reds relievers, pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save and the 200th of his career.

### Dodgers 3, Phillies 1

At Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda allowed only two baserunners in seven brilliant innings, Matt Kemp homered, and Los Angeles completed its first four-game sweep of Philadelphia in 46 years.

The Dodgers' sixth straight win over the Phillies dating back to last season kept them tied with Arizona atop the NL West, and dropped Philadelphia one game behind the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

The Dodgers won four straight over the Phillies in July 1962 during the inaugural season at Dodger Stadium.

Kuroda (7-8) walked none and struck out seven before being lifted for a pinch hitter. He has allowed just three runs and 14 hits in 22 1-3 innings in his last three starts.

# Selig expects replay announcement 'very shortly'

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Major league ballparks are being wired for instant replay, and commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday his "confidence is growing" that the technology to assist umpires will be ready soon.

"I want to make sure that if and when we do it, it's really good, it's perfect," Selig said at the conclusion of a two-day owners' meeting. "It'll be very limited. I want to make sure, and I'm not quite certain yet. But we should have answers very shortly."

Selig said he has visited the so-called "war room" in New York where officials would review video feeds of disputed home runs. The NHL has a similar setup in Toronto.

"We've spent a lot of time doing a lot of wiring of ballparks, doing a lot of checking," Selig said. "Let's just say my confidence is growing."

A replay report was given to owners by Jimmie Lee Solomon, an executive vice president in the commissioner's office, a person at the meeting said, speaking on condition of anonymity because Selig's remarks were the only ones that were authorized.

Owners were told that an agreement with the umpires' union was basically in place.

"They're trying, obviously, to get instant replay before the season ends," Gene Orza, the No. 2 official of the players' association, said while watching the Cuba-U.S. Olympic baseball game in Beijing. "We're having some discussions. It's coming at some point. It's more a question of when and how than whether."

The "war room" will be at the offices of Major League Baseball Advanced Media. Phones and monitors for replay will be installed near the field at every ballpark, and decisions will be made by crew chiefs after consulting the New York office.

Selig was once a staunch opponent of replay, but a spate of missed home run calls this season has changed his stance.

Replays would be used to only determine whether a ball leaving the field is fair or foul, or whether it actually went over the fence. It would not be used on close plays on the bases or balls and strikes.

Replay was discussed at the meetings but doesn't require a vote among the owners because it is not a rule change.

Also Thursday, owners voted to approve Bill Neukom as controlling owner of the San Francisco Giants as of Oct. 1, when Peter Magowan retires. The owners also approved participation in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

Selig again voiced his concern about maple bats, which appear to shatter more often and more dangerously that their ash counterparts. He said baseball has hired researchers at two universities to study the bats, but no action will be taken this season.

"My concerns are the same," Selig said. "Every game I watch there's a bat splintered. I'm sensitive about it, and we need to move ahead."

Selig said All-Star rosters might be expanded by two pitchers to ensure that position players won't have to pitch if the game goes deep into extra innings. Both teams nearly ran out of pitchers during the American League's 15-inning win at Yankee Stadium in July.

Selig ruled out altering the rules to make an extra-inning All-Star game end faster. At the Beijing Olympics, each team's at-bat in the 11th inning and beyond begins with runners on first and second.

"It's meant to be played to completion," Selig said. "I thought we had forever solved the problem, and we had. Everything we did worked, but we may put an additional safeguard in."

# Team USA gets measure of revenge by dominating Greece

**BEIJING** (AP)—It's official now. This is NOT Japan and the 2006 World Championships, not to mention Athens and the 2004 Olympics.

This is Beijing and the 2008 Olympics, and the U.S. is back in men's basketball.

These Americans, who looked so lost two years ago at the World Championship in Japan, appear to have found their Olympic way in China.

Batting away balls or swatting shots on seemingly every possession late in the second quarter, the Americans broke open a close game and went on to a 92-69 victory Thursday night to clinch a spot in the medal round.

"We played like we wanted to win. We played together," U.S. guard Dwyane Wade said. "We were very aware of their offensive sets, we were very aware of their personnel and we played like that. So we were kind of a step in front of what they wanted to do because we kind of knew everything already."

The Americans were also able to find the range on jump shots when the Greeks went to a zone defense to slow them down. Kobe Bryant, who entered the game shooting just 37 percent in the first two games, was 7-for-14 from the field and finished with 18 points.

Chris Bosh also had 18 points, Wade added 17 and LeBron James had 13 for the United States (3-0), which moves on to a matchup of Group B unbeatens Saturday night against world champion Spain. The winner will earn the group's top seed for the quarterfinals.

AP

USA's Kobe Bryant shoots against Greece during their men's preliminary basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008.

Greece stunned the Americans two years ago in the semifinals of the 2006 world championships, shredding the U.S. defense for 63 percent shooting with clinical execution of its pick-and-roll offense in a 101-95 victory.

This time, the Greeks hit just 41.3 percent (26-for-63) from the field and just 4-for-18, 22 percent, from 3-point range as the Americans used a suffocating defense to extend a seven-point lead to a 19-point cushion in the final 51/2 minutes of the first half.

"Any time you get beat it's embarrassing and that's enough," Bosh said. "And we can really use that as a tool to help us with our defense now, and that's the name of the game. Because if you play good defense, no matter how you're shooting the ball you're going to be in the game."

The Americans' defense failed them at the 2004 Athens Olympics. The U.S. finished 5-3 and gave up an average of 91.6 points per game in the three losses. The disappointing showing was the impetus that led to the three-year training this squad underwent to prepare for these Summer Games. This is not just a roster of NBA All-Stars, these players feel a part of a team.

Thursday night Theo Papaloukas led Greece with 15 points, but like China and Angola before them, the Greeks stayed close for about 11/2 quarters before the Americans' depth and athleticism blew open the game.

After the previously slumping Bryant finally knocked down a 3-pointer, James blocked a shot that led to Bosh's three-point play for a 44-30 lead with 2:31 remaining in the second quarter. James came up with a steal less than 30 seconds later and threw down a reverse dunk.

Bosh swiped at a ball that led to another Greece turnover, and James found him on the next possession for another three-point play and a 49-30 bulge. The Greeks then turned it over again, with James keeping his balance while nearly falling down to take an outlet pass and convert a layup, and Bosh blocked the final Greek shot of the half to make it 51-32 at the break.

# Heintz, Laird tie course mark with 63s at Wyndham

**GREENSBORO, N.C.** (AP)—Bob Heintz has always wanted some fans to follow him around the course for a change. For one day anyway, he got that kind of attention, even if it took some ribbing—and a remarkable start to the Wyndham Championship.

Heintz and rookie Martin Laird matched the course record Thursday with 7-under 63s at Sedgefield Country Club to share the lead after the first round of the PGA Tour's last event before the start of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

They joined three other players who previously shot 63s at the Donald Ross-designed course—nobody had done it since Gary Player in 1970, although the pros haven't played Sedgefield since 1976—and surpassed the venue's opening-round record by one stroke.

Garrett Willis birdied his final five holes to join Scott Sterling, Tim Clark and Carl Pettersson one stroke back at 64. Steve Marino, Bob Sowards, Ken Duke and Scott McCarron were two strokes behind at 65.

Early during Heintz's round, he figured out that the gallery of roughly 50 people was far more interested in another member of his threesome, local amateur Drew Weaver.

"I said, 'I imagine y'all are here to watch Drew, right?'" Heintz said. "They kind of laughed and felt bad that they weren't there to watch me. I relayed to them that one of my career goals was to get where I'm good enough where someone might actually go to a golf course, pick up a pairing sheet and say, 'I'll follow Bob Heintz's group today.'

"That's kind of a vague career goal, but they started to tease me about that as the day went on—'I guess I'll follow you now.' I'd rather have attention than, you know, have nobody know who I was."

Heintz started his round on the back nine and birdied five of his first eight holes. He could have pushed his score even lower on his final hole, the par-4 ninth, but he pushed his 15-foot birdie putt to the right and tapped in for par.

Laird's round was bogey-free with five birdies—including one on the course's toughest hole, the par-4 18th. He added an eagle on the par-4 13th, using a wedge out of the left rough and holing out from about 115 yards away.

"That was one of the ones I got lucky," Laird said.

The co-leaders could use a weekend's worth of that good fortune if they want to extend their seasons, qualify for the playoffs and maybe even keep their tour cards.

Laird ranks 162nd on the money list and 164th on the points list. Heintz is one spot ahead of Laird in earnings but trails him by three spots in the FedEx Cup chase in which the top 144 players advance to the postseason.

"If I was to point to something and say, 'This could be stressful for me right now,' it would not be whether I get into the FedEx Cup," Heintz said. "It would be, you know, am I going to be able to finish this year in the top 125?

"Am I going to be able to finish in the top 150? For a player of my current status, those are the real concerns. I would love to take some of that FedEx Cup money, and that would mean good things for me, but I don't come to this week going, 'Man, I've got to get in the FedEx Cup.'"

Heintz and Laird bested the course's previous opening-round mark of 64 shared by four players, most recently Lee Elder and Tom Weiskopf in 1973.

Four years after that, the tournament moved 15 miles across town to Forest Oaks Country Club, and it was held there from 1977-2007 before organizers this year brought the event back to Sedgefield.

Brandt Snedeker, whose first career PGA Tour victory came at Forest Oaks last year, finished his opening round three strokes off the lead.

"This golf course actually sets up better for me than Forest Oaks did," Snedeker said. "This is more of a placement-off-the-tee kind of golf course and hitting the greens and making some putts. ... Forest Oaks was more of a shootout, see how many birdies you can make. If you hit it long, you had an advantage. Over here, you don't. You've got to place it around the golf course, which is kind of more suited to my game."

# Rockets formally announce Artest trade

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Ron Artest officially joined the Houston Rockets on Thursday.

The Rockets announced the five-player trade with Sacramento that also brought forward Patrick Ewing Jr. and guard Sean Singletary in exchange for guard Bobby Jackson, rookie forward Donte Greene and Houston's first-round pick next year.

"This is definitely the high point of my career," Artest said in a conference call. "It's the biggest opportunity I've ever had playing basketball."

The trade was first reported July 29 but couldn't be announced until Thursday because Greene had to spend 30 days with the Rockets after signing with them July 15. He was acquired from Memphis in a draft-day trade.

The 6-foot-7, 248-pound Artest averaged 20.5 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.5 assists for the Kings last season.

The Rockets don't think they're taking a chance on the 28-year-old Artest, known as much for his volatile personality as his basketball skills.

When he played for Indiana, Artest was the central figure in the brawl with fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills during a game against Detroit early in the 2004-05 season. He was suspended for the rest of the season—73 games, the NBA's harshest punishment for a fight.

In December, two civil lawsuits against Artest that stemmed from the fight were dismissed.

Rockets owner Leslie Alexander said he was reassured about Artest's character in a conversation with former NBA guard Greg Anthony, who was Artest's teammate briefly in Chicago.

"He's a different person than he was years ago," Alexander said. "He cares about his on-court performance more than he ever has in his life."

The trade will reunite Artest with Rick Adelman, who coached Sacramento when Artest was acquired by the Kings during the 2005-06 season.

Artest played 40 games for Adelman and averaged 16.9 points, 5.2 rebounds and a career-high 4.2 assists. He was also named to the NBA All-Defensive first team.

Artest said Adelman used him at all five positions at some point, trying to neutralize the opponents' best scorer. Artest said he'd be willing to do anything to fit in with the Rockets.

"I'll be ready," Artest said. "Whatever Adelman needs me to do, come off the bench, be the sixth or seventh man, start, I don't even care. Whatever he needs me to do, I'm 100 percent sure it's going to work."

The Rockets went 55-27 last season, but failed to get past the first round for the fourth time in five seasons. Alexander thinks Artest is the missing piece to a championship-caliber team.

"This guy really puts us over the top in terms of what we need," Alexander said. "We have a great team to start on the floor and a bench. I think we're going to go really far."

Jackson averaged 8.8 points, 2.7 rebounds and 2.4 assists for the Rockets last season. He appeared in all six playoff games in 2008, averaging 8.7 points and 1.5 assists. Jackson played for the Kings from 2000-05.

# RGA, SGA hold August tourneys this weekend

Refaluwasch Golf Association and Saipan Golf Association will hold their respective August Ace of the Month Tournaments this weekend.

RGA's August Ace of the Month will be held today at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course. Check in time is 11am with tee time set at 12pm.

Score to beat is the net 68 scored by Nick Sablan during the club's August qualifier held in conjunction with the 2008 Tournament of Champions last Aug. 2 at the Kagman venue.

RGA tournament coordinator Jess Wabol is also reminding Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

For more information about other competitions held by the club, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673.

SGA, meanwhile, will hold its August Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, Aug. 17, at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Participants must check in at 8:30am to make the 9:30am tee off time. Slots are available for 24 players and SGA said first players to show up early, will definitely be the first to roll the grounds.

Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo and Joe Sablan, homerun menace Ned Norita, last year's annual champion Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, retired judge Edward Manibusan, and former SGA president Nobert Sablan have bragging rights for the first seven months of SGA's season as they secured the January, February, March, April, May, June, and July Ace titles, respectively.

For more information about SGA's August Ace of the Month Tournament and rest of the club's competitions, call SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. ***(Mark Rabago)***

## POWER-LESS

*From Page 28*

2, but were not able to do so due to the power outage.

For now, the hands of organizers of the SML and PTI caging are tied as far as ensuring that games will go ahead as scheduled is concerned.

Joey Dela Cruz of the Division of Sports and Recreation and organizer of the PTI caging said they will wait for next week's schedule of power outage before making a decision on changing the games schedule or moving to a new venue.

"We will meet with the coaches and managers next week to discuss this problem. For now, we just have to wait and see if the games will be affected by the power outage or not," Dela Cruz said.

Dela Cruz added that the power outage scheduled from Aug. 10 to 15 at the Oleai Complex is from 12noon to 2pm and they have yet to receive a new one from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"We can't do anything about it (power outage) but wait and see. Friday's game (last night) will go ahead as set if there's no power outage," Dela Cruz said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Last night's game was to feature the Commonwealth Ports Authority meeting defending champion Autonomous in the first match and NMC battling the undefeated PTI in the second game.

SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi was set to meet with coaches and managers of the Rangers and Rock Steady last night to discuss changes in the schedule in the title series.

Rogolifoi said they are considering playing in the morning or afternoon during weekends just to finish the finals.

## NO. 6

*From Page 28*

his sixth world record in China.

Phelps matched his wins from Athens four years ago, where he also took six golds along with two bronzes. He's already the winningest athlete in Olympic history with 12 golds, but his sights are on eight.

Spitz won seven golds at the 1972 Munich Games. Phelps has two more events to leave little doubt he's the greatest Olympian ever.

Ryan Lochte tried to pull off a daunting double, going against Phelps just 29 minutes after winning the 200 backstroke. He couldn't keep up, though he did hold on for bronze. Laszlo Cseh of Hungary picked up his third silver of the games—all of them trailing Phelps.

When the official results were posted, Phelps extended his right hand to Lochte in the next lane. The friends shook hands and patted each other on the head.

Later, they yukked it up on the medal stand before Phelps hustled off to grab his racing gear; he had to come right back for the semifinals of the 100 butterfly.

"I switched from my dress sweats to my parka, shoes, threw my cap and goggles on and then they pushed us on out. No time," he said. "The medal was in my warmup jacket."

History can't wait.

A half-hour after winning another gold, Phelps was second fastest behind Milorad Cavic of Croatia in the 100 fly, setting himself up to tie Spitz's record in Saturday's final. World record-holder Ian Crocker of the U.S. bounced back from a disappointing swim in the prelims to post the third-fastest time.

"There wasn't much time," Phelps said, "but I think there's going to be a lot of time for me to rest over the next 18 hours or so, and I'll be able to be ready for tomorrow morning's 100."

If all goes according to plan, Phelps will get No. 7 in the fly—his signature stroke—and have the coronation Sunday in the 400 medley relay. The Americans are always heavily favored for gold in that one.

Nevertheless, he's taking nothing for granted, especially in the fly.

"It's never a relief," he said. "Tomorrow is going to be a tough race. For me to be a player in that race, I have to be closer at the 50. If I'm not, then it will be tough. I was over a body length behind at the 50 in the prelims and came up a bit short, so I have to be there."

Still, he showed little signs of tiring from the grueling schedule. He's already raced 15 times and has two more left - both going for gold.

"I actually don't feel too bad now," Phelps said.

That can't be encouraging for those swimmers who've come up with all sorts of amusing theories for Phelps' dominance. He's from outer space. He's come back from the future in a time machine. He's some sort of human rocket.

The official Xinhua News Agency dubbed Phelps "the American superfish."

Lochte got quite a consolation price: a world record and the first individual gold medal of his career in the backstroke. The laid-back Floridian edged teammate Aaron Peirsol in 1:53.94 to break the mark he shared with Peirsol.

"I touched the wall and was like, 'Thank you, finally,'" Lochte said. "It felt good the whole way."

Lochte was known as "Mr. Runner-up" for his frequent second-place finishes to Phelps and Peirsol. Then he stunned Peirsol at last year's world championships in 1:54.32, before Peirsol matched the time in beating Lochte at the U.S. Olympic trials last month.

Lochte got Peirsol back despite a problem with his LZR Racer.

"My suit came undone after the first 50," Lochte said. "I was just trying to control my legs."

Lochte couldn't tame Phelps, however, which would appear to leave Crocker as the last man standing between Phelps and his destiny.

A thoughtful, 25-year-old from Maine, who loves to cruise in vintage cars and jam on his guitar, Crocker is now trying to go down in history as the man who stopped Phelps.

"You can start by not worrying about what everybody else thinks," he said. "Nobody knows what I've really gone through in the last eight years and what has gotten me to this point, besides myself and a few people that I know well. So it's my own personal deal at this point."

Peirsol won the 100 back in Beijing, but failed to match his backstroke double from Athens four years ago. He earned the silver in 1:54.33, while Russia's Arkady Vyatchanin claimed the bronze.

"That's the theme of the meet. You have to break a world record to win. I gave it my all and I had nothing left," Peirsol said. "I'm very proud of what I've done. Ryan swam well. He earned it."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 73 | 47 | .608 | – |
| Boston | 71 | 51 | .582 | 3 |
| New York | 64 | 57 | .529 | 9½ |
| Toronto | 62 | 60 | .508 | 12 |
| Baltimore | 58 | 62 | .483 | 15 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 68 | 52 | .567 | – |
| Minnesota | 67 | 53 | .558 | 1 |
| Detroit | 59 | 62 | .488 | 9½ |
| Cleveland | 54 | 66 | .450 | 14 |
| Kansas City | 54 | 67 | .446 | 14½ |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 75 | 44 | .630 | – |
| Texas | 61 | 61 | .500 | 15½ |
| Oakland | 55 | 65 | .458 | 20½ |
| Seattle | 46 | 74 | .383 | 29½ |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 65 | 56 | .537 | – |
| Philadelphia | 64 | 57 | .529 | 1 |
| Florida | 63 | 59 | .516 | 2 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 55 | 66 | .455 | 10 |
| Washington | 44 | 78 | .361 | 21 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 74 | 47 | .612 | – |
| Milwaukee | 70 | 52 | .574 | 4 1/2 |
| St. Louis | 68 | 56 | .548 | 7 1/2 |
| Houston | 62 | 59 | .512 | 12 |
| Pittsburgh | 55 | 66 | .455 | 19 |
| Cincinnati | 54 | 68 | .443 | 20 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 62 | 59 | .512 | – |
| Los Angeles | 62 | 59 | .512 | – |
| Colorado | 54 | 69 | .439 | 9 |
| San Francisco | 50 | 70 | .417 | 11 1/2 |
| San Diego | 47 | 74 | .388 | 15 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Detroit 5, Toronto 1
Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 2
Tampa Bay 7, Oakland 6, 12 innings
Boston 10, Texas 0
Baltimore 11, Cleveland 6
Houston 7, San Francisco 4
Arizona 6, Colorado 2
San Diego 3, Milwaukee 2
Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 1
Chicago Cubs 11, Atlanta 7
N.Y. Mets 9, Washington 3
St. Louis 3, Florida 0
L.A. Dodgers 3, Philadelphia 1

### WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

**GREENSBORO, North Carolina** (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Wyndham Championship, a $5.1 million (3.4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,118-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club:

**FIRST ROUND**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Martin Laird | 32-31 | 63 |
| Bob Heintz | 32-31 | 63 |
| Scott Sterling | 32-32 | 64 |
| Carl Pettersson | 29-35 | 64 |
| Tim Clark | 31-33 | 64 |
| Garrett Willis | 30-34 | 64 |
| Steve Marino | 32-33 | 65 |
| Ken Duke | 33-32 | 65 |
| Scott McCarron | 32-33 | 65 |
| Bob Sowards | 32-33 | 65 |
| Billy Andrade | 32-34 | 66 |
| Jerry Kelly | 34-32 | 66 |
| Jeff Maggert | 31-35 | 66 |
| Brandt Snedeker | 32-34 | 66 |
| Peter Lonard | 32-34 | 66 |
| Mark Hensby | 32-34 | 66 |
| Patrick Sheehan | 31-35 | 66 |
| Stephen Poole | 32-34 | 66 |
| Robert Garrigus | 34-32 | 66 |
| Kent Jones | 33-33 | 66 |
| Zach Johnson | 34-32 | 66 |
| John Senden | 32-34 | 66 |
| Davis Love III | 32-34 | 66 |
| Dean Wilson | 34-32 | 66 |
| Lucas Glover | 33-33 | 66 |
| Tim Wilkinson | 32-34 | 66 |
| Glen Day | 33-33 | 66 |
| Kevin Streelman | 34-32 | 66 |
| Jason Dufner | 34-32 | 66 |
| Bo Van Pelt | 34-33 | 67 |
| John Riegger | 34-33 | 67 |
| Marco Dawson | 33-34 | 67 |
| Joe Durant | 33-34 | 67 |
| Brian Gay | 32-35 | 67 |
| Mark Calcavecchia | 34-33 | 67 |
| Richard S. Johnson | 34-33 | 67 |
| Vaughn Taylor | 33-34 | 67 |
| Jason Gore | 32-35 | 67 |
| Shane Bertsch | 32-35 | 67 |
| Jay Williamson | 31-36 | 67 |
| Lee Janzen | 33-34 | 67 |
| Chris Stroud | 34-33 | 67 |
| Chad Collins | 33-34 | 67 |
| Y.E. Yang | 34-33 | 67 |
| Michael Letzig | 34-33 | 67 |
| Eric Axley | 33-34 | 67 |
| Briny Baird | 36-31 | 67 |
| Billy Mayfair | 33-34 | 67 |
| Charles Warren | 33-34 | 67 |
| Ryan Moore | 33-35 | 68 |
| Paul Stankowski | 36-32 | 68 |
| Chris Riley | 36-32 | 68 |
| Jeff Gove | 33-35 | 68 |
| George McNeill | 37-31 | 68 |
| Kirk Triplett | 32-36 | 68 |
| David Toms | 36-32 | 68 |
| Ryuji Imada | 33-35 | 68 |
| Mark Wilson | 33-35 | 68 |
| Corey Pavin | 33-35 | 68 |
| Tim Herron | 33-35 | 68 |
| Matt Jones | 34-34 | 68 |
| Mathew Goggin | 33-35 | 68 |
| Frank Lickliter II | 33-35 | 68 |
| Kyle Thompson | 35-33 | 68 |
| Justin Bolli | 34-34 | 68 |
| Ben Crane | 33-35 | 68 |
| Jay Delsing | 33-35 | 68 |
| Mark Brooks | 34-34 | 68 |
| Ted Purdy | 35-33 | 68 |
| Charley Hoffman | 32-36 | 68 |
| Tom Pernice, Jr. | 34-34 | 68 |
| Brett Rumford | 34-34 | 68 |
| Jon Mills | 35-33 | 68 |
| Nick Flanagan | 34-34 | 68 |
| Danny Lee | 33-35 | 68 |
| Vijay Singh | 36-33 | 69 |
| Troy Matteson | 34-35 | 69 |
| Brenden Pappas | 34-35 | 69 |
| Drew Weaver | 33-36 | 69 |
| Brian Davis | 33-36 | 69 |
| James Driscoll | 34-35 | 69 |
| Will MacKenzie | 36-33 | 69 |
| Joe Ogilvie | 33-36 | 69 |
| Paul Claxton | 34-35 | 69 |
| Marc Turnesa | 35-34 | 69 |
| Jin Park | 33-36 | 69 |
| Todd Demsey | 35-34 | 69 |
| David Lutterus | 33-36 | 69 |
| Cameron Beckman | 37-33 | 70 |
| Brad Adamonis | 35-35 | 70 |
| Paul Casey | 34-36 | 70 |
| Tim Petrovic | 37-33 | 70 |
| Jeff Quinney | 34-36 | 70 |
| J.J. Henry | 35-35 | 70 |
| Olin Browne | 36-34 | 70 |
| John Huston | 36-34 | 70 |
| Brandt Jobe | 34-36 | 70 |
| Kevin Stadler | 35-35 | 70 |
| Tommy Gainey | 35-35 | 70 |
| Doug LaBelle II | 33-37 | 70 |
| Andrew McLardy | 33-37 | 70 |
| Jim McGovern | 34-36 | 70 |
| Kevin Na | 35-35 | 70 |
| Brent Geiberger | 36-34 | 70 |
| Bubba Watson | 34-36 | 70 |
| Rich Beem | 34-36 | 70 |
| Bob Tway | 35-35 | 70 |
| John Daly | 36-34 | 70 |
| Michael Bradley | 34-36 | 70 |
| Jimmy Walker | 35-35 | 70 |
| Ron Whittaker | 36-34 | 70 |
| Craig Kanada | 32-38 | 70 |
| Andrew Buckle | 35-35 | 70 |
| Cody Freeman | 35-35 | 70 |
| Savio Nazareth | 36-34 | 70 |
| Mathias Gronberg | 35-36 | 71 |
| Nick Watney | 32-39 | 71 |
| Jeff Overton | 34-37 | 71 |
| Ryan Armour | 36-35 | 71 |
| Neal Lancaster | 37-34 | 71 |
| Tom Scherrer | 33-38 | 71 |
| Ian Leggatt | 35-36 | 71 |
| Carlos Franco | 35-36 | 71 |
| Travis Perkins | 33-38 | 71 |
| Cameron Peck | 35-36 | 71 |
| Gavin Coles | 35-36 | 71 |
| J.P. Hayes | 37-34 | 71 |
| Bill Haas | 37-34 | 71 |
| Todd Hamilton | 35-36 | 71 |
| Chris DiMarco | 34-37 | 71 |
| Robert Gamez | 34-37 | 71 |
| Steve Allan | 34-37 | 71 |
| Nathan Green | 33-38 | 71 |
| Tom Byrum | 32-39 | 71 |
| Jason Day | 34-37 | 71 |
| Bob Estes | 35-36 | 71 |
| Larry Mize | 33-39 | 72 |
| Omar Uresti | 34-38 | 72 |
| Harrison Frazar | 36-36 | 72 |
| Kevin Chappell | 35-37 | 72 |
| Brad Elder | 36-36 | 72 |
| Jason Allred | 35-37 | 72 |
| Jay Woodson | 37-35 | 72 |
| Richard Johnson | 35-37 | 72 |
| Ryan Palmer | 36-37 | 73 |
| David Duval | 36-37 | 73 |
| Jeev M. Singh | 35-38 | 73 |
| Jamie Lovemark | 36-38 | 74 |
| Tag Ridings | 34-40 | 74 |
| Kevin Sutherland | 35-39 | 74 |
| John Rollins | 35-39 | 74 |
| Dicky Pride | 38-37 | 75 |
| Kelly Mitchum | 36-39 | 75 |
| Robin Smith | 36-39 | 75 |
| Trevor Dodds | 41-35 | 76 |

### 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

**Medal Count**

| | G | S | B | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| China | 22 | 9 | 5 | 36 |
| United States | 14 | 12 | 17 | 43 |
| Australia | 5 | 6 | 8 | 19 |
| South Korea | 6 | 7 | 3 | 16 |
| Russia | 3 | 8 | 5 | 16 |
| France | 2 | 7 | 6 | 15 |
| Germany | 8 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Italy | 6 | 4 | 3 | 13 |
| Japan | 5 | 3 | 3 | 11 |
| Britain | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Netherlands | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Ukraine | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Cuba | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| North Korea | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Hungary | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Azerbaijan | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Romania | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Kazakhstan | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Armenia | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Brazil | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Czech Republic | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Georgia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Zimbabwe | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Sweden | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Mongolia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Slovakia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Finland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Spain | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Algeria | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Austria | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Norway | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Turkey | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Belarus | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Chinese Taipei | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| India | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Colombia | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slovenia | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Vietnam | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Argentina | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Croatia | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Egypt | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mexico | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Tajikistan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Togo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Team USA gets measure of revenge by dominating Greece**

It's official now. This is NOT Japan and the 2006 World Championships, not to mention Athens and the 2004 Olympics.

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Four hit consecutive homers as White Sox beat Royals**

Jim Thome, Paul Konerko, Alexei Ramirez and Juan Uribe hit consecutive homers in the sixth inning and tied a major league record as the Chicago White Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 9-2 to complete a three-game sweep.

25



# Power-less evening at Oleai continues

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For the second straight time, organizers of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League and the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball had to call off their games due to the unscheduled power outage at the Oleai Sports Complex

The PTI caging had set two games for Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while the continuation of Game 2 of the SML final series between the Rangers and Rock Steady was scheduled on the same night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The second game in the PTI basketball tournament Wednesday night was also halted by the rolling power outage with Tinian and the Department of Corrections finishing only the first quarter of the match, as the power at the Ada Gym went off midway in the second quarter.

Over at the "Tan Ko" ballfield Wednesday night, Rock Steady was leading the Rangers, 10-3, at the top of the seventh inning of Game 2 when the lights went off, foiling the pennant champion's bid to even the best-of-five title series.

The Rangers stunned Rock Steady, which was undefeated in the regular season, in the series opener Monday night, pulling off a 15-10 victory.

The Rangers and Rock Steady went to the "Tan Ko" Baseball Field Thursday night to resume Game

*See POWER-LESS on Page 27*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian players pose for the *Saipan Tribune* after their game against Department of Corrections in the PTI caging was halted due to a power outage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Wednesday night.

AP

United States' Michael Phelps, left, swims to win a gold medal in the men's 200-meter individual medley during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008.

# No. 6: Phelps grabs yet another gold medal

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**BEIJING** (AP)—Michael Phelps hung on the lane rope in a familiar pose, admiring another world record while his rivals gasped for breath. Make it 6-for-6 at the Beijing Games.

Next up: Mark Spitz and the grandest of Olympic records.

Blowing away the field, Phelps won the 200-meter individual medley in a record 1 minute, 54.23 seconds—more than two seconds ahead of the next guy. He knocked off his own mark of 1:54.80 set at last month's U.S. trials,

*See NO. 6 on Page 27*

# Hiro welcomes new SSC coach

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center has extended a hand of friendship and cooperation to new Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Blasberg.

According to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, he and Blasberg have already met a couple of times and seem to share the same dream to further develop the sport in the Commonwealth.

"Mike is very friendly guy and he knows swimming very well. His mind is so flexible to think about sharing the pool, holding mutual meets with us, and the swimming community of the CNMI," Kimura said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Kimura added that he is already looking forward to Tsunami Saipan-SSC cooperation in the future, which would only stand to benefit local swimmers as well as improve the standard of the sport in the islands.

"I'm sure we can work together if he is the head coach of SSC. We expect good relationship because we respect each other. This was impossible last season."

Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good joined Kimura in welcoming the new SSC coach.

"On behalf of the Tsunami Saipan team we welcome SSC's new head coach, Michael Blasberg. Working together we can promote swimming and increase the community interest in swimming."

Good added that the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation—the umbrella federation for swimming in the Commonwealth—is already planning a mutual meet that would have Tsunami Saipan and SSC swimmers compete this season.

"Aiming at achievement, both coaches are talking about it (mutual meet) right now," said Good.

In related news, Tsunami Saipan has set up a new class specifically designed for those who want to get in shape and for beginners who are over nine years old.

"The class name is 'Youth and Fitness.' There are still some more spaces to sign up, though five swimmers are there already," said Kimura.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan and its courses, call team manager Yuko Kimura at 789-7842.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center head coach Hiro Kimura, right, shakes hands with new Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Blasberg during a break in their respective clubs' practice sessions at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool recently.